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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi Minister: No to Improved Ties With Jordan *[KUNA]* 1
U.S. Arms Cuts Seen as Part of Changing World *[London AL-HAYAH 29 Sep]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

PNSF Rejects PNC Resolutions *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 1
New Flexibility Seen at PNC Session *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT]* 2
Kuwaiti Paper on Alleged U.S. Meeting *[KUNA]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Ghozali on Foreign Involvement in Oil Industry *[APS]* 3
Reports on Tension With Tunisia Denied *[Algiers Radio]* 3
Hachani Arrest Protested, Rally Planned *[MAP]* 3
*Partial Government Reshuffle Reported *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Sep]* 3

Egypt

Pankin Views Mubarak Visit, Peace Conference *[Cairo Radio]* 4
Musa Says Conference To Be Held Late Oct-Nov *[Cairo Radio]* 4
Sidqi Reviews Economic Plans, Kuwaiti Loan *[MENA]* 4

Mauritania

Fifth Political Party Authorized 30 Sep *[Nouakchott Radio]* 5

Tunisia

RCD Political Bureau Condemns Abortive Coup *[Tunis Radio]* 5

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Communiques on Moroccan Settlers 6
Appeals to International Community *[Madrid International]* 6
Says 30,000 Moroccans Head for Laayoune *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Demands Removal of Moroccans *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Says Morocco Violating Cease-Fire *[Algiers Radio]* 6

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

U.S. Nuclear Arms Reduction Initiative Hailed *[WAKH]* 7

Kuwait

U.S. Arms Cuts Seen as Part of World Trend
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 29 Sep] 7

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian President Mubarak To Visit 2 Oct *[SPA]* 7

Yemen

Alleged Mosad Infiltration Attempt Foiled *[AL-RA'Y 2 Oct]* 7

IRAQ

Reaction to Bush's Arms Reduction Initiative *[Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH 30 Sep]* 8
Further Reaction *[Baghdad Radio]* 8
Names of Firms Aiding Nuclear Project Held *[AFP]* 9
UN Reportedly Renews Regret Over Kay's Actions *[INA]* 9
Minister: Turkey To Raise Oil Pipeline Fees *[AFP]* 10
Contacts Underway To Expose War 'Crimes' *[INA]* 10

ISRAEL

USSR's Pankin To Visit in 'Coming Weeks' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
Shamir Views Palestinian Contacts With PLO *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 2 Oct]* 11
Said Agreed to Jordanian From Jerusalem *[HA'ARETZ 2 Oct]* 11
Minister Magen—U.S. Trying To Exert Pressure *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
Ne'eman: Bush Barred Military Strike During War *[Jerusalem TV]* 12
Argentina's Menem Arrives for Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
Herzog, Menem Speak *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
Norwegian Defense Minister Arrives, Meets Arens *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
NRP Opposes Early Elections, Urges Settlement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13
Likud Knesset Members Depart for Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13
Jordan Seen Doing 'Utmost' To Secure Border *[Jerusalem TV]* 13
Country Blamed for Delaying Arrival of EC Envoy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13
Arabs Protest Against Evacuation for Immigrants *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13

JORDAN

Foreign Minister al-Nasur Views Peace Process *[London AL-HAYAH 27 Sep]* 14

LEBANON

Al-Musawi Wants Israel To Free More Prisoners *[AFP]* 16
Hizballah Holds SLA Members, Israeli Hostage *[RFL]* 16
General Lahd Suspends Release of Detainees *[VOL]* 16
Syrian Forces Reduce Roadblocks in Tripoli *[VOL]* 16

SYRIA

Foreign Minister Meets Saudi Counterpart *[Damascus Radio]* 17
Khaddam Receives Lebanese Prime Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 17
Commentary on Israeli Politics, Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 17

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibollah Urges Unity Government *[Kabul Radio]* 18
Kabul Continues Heavy Bombing in Gardeyz *[AFP]* 26

Iran

Tehran: No Hostages Held in Beirut Embassy *[IRNA]* 27
Syrian Chief of Staff Concludes Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 27
U.S. Military Deployments Around Bubiyan Noted *[Tehran Radio]* 28
Khamene'i on Helping Palestinian Resistance *[Tehran Radio]* 28
Official on Gulf Security, Afghanistan, USSR *[IRNA]* 28

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi Minister: No to Improved Ties With Jordan

LD0110143691 London KUNA in Arabic 1310 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] New York, 1 Oct (KUNA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, in a press statement published here today, ruled out the idea of renormalization of relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and Jordan because of the latter's support for the Iraqi policy of occupation of Kuwait and its threat to the other Gulf countries. Citing well-informed diplomatic sources, the newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT said Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal affirmed that the responsibility for the improvement of relations between the two sides rests with Jordan. He said the Jordanian Government should review and reevaluate its hostile stands toward the GCC member countries, pointing out that "time will deal with the negative aspects of the Jordanian stance once Jordan abandons its wrong stands and stops trying to justify them by blaming the GCC countries." Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that "Jordan has a vital interest in participating in and working for the success of the proposed peace conference."

The diplomatic sources said that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's statements were made during recent meetings in New York between EC representatives and GCC delegations, held to discuss possible aid to Jordan to overcome the economic difficulties it is going through because of its support for the aggressive policies of the Iraqi regime against Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

U.S. Arms Cuts Seen as Part of Changing World

PM0110113091 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Sep 91 p13

[Kamran Qurrah Daghi article: "It Is a Different World"]

[Excerpts] Had U.S. President George Bush's new initiative on tactical nuclear weapons cuts come before the aborted coup in Moscow, it would have immediately become a factor in the Soviet Union's internal polarizations and would have played an extremely important part in strengthening Mikhail Gorbachev's shaky position.

At the time, Gorbachev sorely needed such an initiative, which he could have used as an effective weapon to prove the success of his own policy of Soviet nuclear arms cuts and to refute rightwing charges that the United States did not reciprocate when he made his own concessions in that field. [passage omitted]

Apart from that, everyone must welcome the new U.S. initiative because it means that the end of the cold war is not something that we merely talk about, but something real and tangible. In addition to the actual destruction of complete types of tactical nuclear weapons, the initiative includes measures that will replace fear and suspicion with trust between the two nuclear superpowers.

For the first time since the beginning of the cold war and the East-West confrontation after World War II, Washington has decided to cancel the daily state of alert for all U.S. strategic bombers and to return their weapons to the stores. Furthermore, the United States will end the state of alert for all the intercontinental missiles that will eventually be eliminated under the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty negotiated recently. As soon as the treaty is ratified, the United States will do away with all these missiles once and for all.

Is this convincing evidence that the world is now really living under a new world order? Be that as it may, it is a different world, a changing world, whether we like it or not.

Palestinian Affairs

PNSF Rejects PNC Resolutions

JN0110191191 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Statement issued by the Palestinian National Salvation Front; place and date not given]

[Text] In its meeting on 30 September 1991, the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] discussed Palestinian developments, especially the outcome and resolutions of the recent Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting in Algiers. In light of this, we would like to explain and stress the following:

1. The PNSF reaffirms that the PNC, in its current makeup, does not represent all factions and forces of the Palestinian people. Nor does it reflect a genuine national unity or representation of our people inside and outside the occupied homeland by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

2. Not heeding the call for comprehensive dialogue, forming the PNC by one side only, setting a date for the PNC session, and denying Palestinian national unity obviously were meant to be unilateral political decisions. This is reflected in the Algiers council's resolutions, which represent compliance with and surrender to U.S. and Israeli conditions and dictates.

3. The U.S. plan to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine question, constitutes a blow to the unity of the Arab cause and struggle and is in flagrant defiance of the sentiments of world Muslims. The plan does not meet the minimum national Palestinian and Arab standards, represented by the need for a full and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, especially holy Jerusalem. The plan, moreover, denies the right of the Palestinian Arab people to repatriation, self-determination, and national independence. It also denies the unity of the Palestinian people inside and

outside the occupied territories, and the unity of their representation through the PLO.

4. The PNSF, which rejected, condemned, and warned the conferees in Algiers against dealing with the U.S. proposals, reaffirms its condemnation and denunciation of the Algiers council's political resolutions. These resolutions represent a compliance with the U.S.-Zionist scheme to liquidate the Palestinian cause, and an abandonment of national constants and decisions. They also constitute a serious prelude to practical moves toward the liquidation of the Palestinian cause, a blow to Palestinian rights, and a hindrance of any militant Palestinian moves in the future. The resolutions of the Algiers council neither represent the will of the Palestinian people nor reflect their rights and interests. The PNSF, therefore, rejects these resolutions and warns of the peril to the Palestinian cause and the future of the Palestinian people. It holds all those involved in the resolutions historically responsible for the national and pan-Arab consequences.

5. The PNSF calls on all factions, forces, national activists, nationalist figures, and the masses of our people in the occupied homeland and abroad to mobilize all energies and resources to support and escalate the intifadah and step up struggle to achieve the inalienable Palestinian rights. It also calls on all Arab and Islamic forces and factions to display further cohesion and struggle to beat off the Zionist aggression and underscore national Palestinian and Arab rights.

[Signed] The Palestinian National Salvation Front

New Flexibility Seen at PNC Session

PM0110150491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Sep 91 p 19

[Editorial: "New Palestinian Language"]

[Text] Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions are first and last a message addressed to the new world and the quarters concerned with the peace conference. Before that they are the result of an unhurried reading of the changes witnessed by the international scene over the past few years. The resolutions go beyond the desire to belong to this new world and to use its language, which is supposed to be based on international legitimacy.

The 20th PNC session was undoubtedly an important event with regard to the Palestinian course of action and Arab moves in connection with the peace conference. PNC members should pay attention to two important questions: first, the new balances of power in the world and the region, and second, the initial date for the peace conference and the signals that the train is ready to set off with those who attend at the specified time.

The history of the Arab-Israeli dispute shows that hardline positions have always proved very attractive, perhaps because the talk about a solution in those stages was not serious, and perhaps because the very views of a solution provided hard-liners with sufficient arguments to make rejection appear the best choice.

It would have been dangerous if the PNC had fallen prisoner to the old language or pursued the "all or nothing" method.

That method would have set the Palestinian resistance outside the rationale of the quest for peace, with all that this means for the Palestinian people. Such a Palestinian stance would certainly have become the principal point of weakness in the Arab position at the peace conference. That did not happen, however, and the PNC ended up with what can be termed a new Palestinian language that deals realistically with the new international situation and seeks—through this flexibility—to guarantee the presence of the constants in the solution to be produced by the peace conference negotiations.

Shamir clearly hoped that the Algiers session would produce a rejectionist position that would keep the ball in the Arab court, but the PNC resolutions quickly sent the ball into his court, especially after Baker expressed his satisfaction with the substance of these resolutions.

Kuwaiti Paper on Alleged U.S. Meeting

LD0110131491 London KUNA in Arabic 1232 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Oct (Kuna)—Well-informed Palestinian sources have revealed that a Palestinian-U.S. meeting took place recently in Tunis with the attendance of First Undersecretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry Dr. Usamah al-Baz. Citing the sources, SAWT AL-KUWAYT today said that a draft agreement on the peace conference was prepared during the meeting, and the main features of the Palestine National Council's final political statement, which was released a few days later in Algiers, were studied.

The sources, which the papers said came from Nabulus, disclosed that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has sent the minutes of the meeting to Israel via Egyptian channels. The minutes included the names of 26 Palestinian figures out of which Israel was to choose five or any number it saw fit to participate in the peace conference proposed by the United States to resolve the Middle East conflict. The Palestinian sources have told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that, in his letter, 'Arafat submitted 28 demands to Israel concerning the adoption of measures to alleviate the pressures faced by Palestinians in the occupied territories, and he asked Israel to agreed to them as a goodwill gesture. It has been learned, however, that Israel will only agree to two of the demands.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT sources in the occupied territories have revealed that the peace conference will take place and that Israel has set up a committee of 18 experts to take part in negotiations on the issues to be discussed at the negotiating table.

Algeria

Ghozali on Foreign Involvement in Oil Industry

LD0210093291 Algiers APS in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] London, 1 Oct (APS)—In an interview with the AL-HAYAH newspaper, published in London today, Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali said that contacts are currently being made with "30 foreign companies with the aim of participating in investing in Algerian oil and increasing the country's reserve," pointing out that the government will, in the next three to four weeks, submit a new law that allows for the participation of foreign companies in the exploitation of Algerian oil.

Mr. Ghozali strongly denied that Algeria encourages fundamentalists in neighboring countries, and he emphasized that it requests those fundamentalists seeking refuge in it to "respect its position." The prime minister also defended the new electoral law which is currently being discussed by the National People's Assembly. He said he hopes that legislative elections will be conducted before the end of the year, pointing out that the issue of early presidential elections is among the "responsibilities" of President Chadli Bendjedid.

Asked about the heaviest of the legacies which the government of Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche left behind, he said: "The heaviest and most dangerous legacies are the financial situation and unemployment."

Reports on Tension With Tunisia Denied

LD0210013891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Authorized sources have given an statement to APS that includes clarifications following the publication by some mass media organs of reports regarding incidents pertaining to Tunisia.

The sources say that such malicious reports regarding Tunisia are aimed at casting doubt on the strong relations existing between Algeria and Tunisia. The same sources state that such news reports could have been accorded attention had they not been cancelled daily by the real facts and a long-term era of brotherhood and cooperation between Algeria and Tunisia.

The sources recall the volume of Algerian-Tunisian cooperation and the importance of relations between the two brotherly countries in the present and in the future.

Hachani Arrest Protested, Rally Planned

LD0210075691 Rabat MAP in English 1327 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Algiers, Oct. 1st (MAP)—Rabah Lakbir, an executive of the Political Commission of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, Monday protested the arrest of an executive of a 'legally recognised party'. Policemen arrested Friday at the FIS headquarters Abdelkadar Hachani, chairman of the National Temporary Executive Bureau, and put him in prison with detainees of common law.

At a press conference Monday, Lakbir said contacts are underway with authorities to obtain information on the reasons behind the arrest. For him, the arrests are meant to hinder the democratic process the country is embarked on. Some milieus, he said, prefer to maintain Algeria in a permanent state of siege. A serious plot is fomented against the Islamic Salvation Front by milieus hostile to Islam, he added.

Lakbir announced the FIS will organise Wednesday and Thursday the second national convention of the party's elected members in addition to an important rally Friday. Algerian authorities opposed the holding of the meetings. The FIS official also denied the news reported by an Algerian paper that the imam of a mosque had been arrested.

*Partial Government Reshuffle Reported

92P400004A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Sep 91 pp 1,4

[Article by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Reshuffle Anticipated in the Algerian Government To Include the Ministries of Interior, Economy, and Information"]

[Text] Paris—Informed sources notified AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali intends to implement a partial reshuffle of his cabinet during the coming days and that he is expecting the green light from President Chadli Bendjedid. This reshuffle is expected to encompass at least four ministries: the Interior Ministry, headed by 'Abdellatif Rahal; the Information and Culture Ministry, headed by Cheikh Bu Omran; the Economy Ministry, directed by Hocine Benissad; and the Health Ministry.

Sid Ahmed Ghozali intends to remedy what several sources are calling errors which were made during the formation of his government, and to adjust to the new conditions which have recently emerged on the scene in the past three months. These include the tense relationship between Ghozali and the Mehri-Hamrouche duo, which leads the National Liberation Front [FLN]. This tension could result in the National People's Congress refusing to ratify the new elections draft law. It is this matter which has forced Ghozali to resort to a general public referendum to modify the elections law put in place by Hamrouche. This measure was suggested indirectly by the president of the National People's Congress, Abdelaziz Belkhadem. Under these circumstances, it is certain that the previously planned, legitimate elections will not take place in the next three months as Ghozali had announced when he formed his government.

The desire to implement the partial reshuffle in shaping the government stems from Ghozali's feeling that his government finds itself at an impasse unless it can find a

political solution to the Islamic Front for Salvation [FIS] problem. This follows the failure of efforts to put an alternative leadership in place that could accept dealing with the government without Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj.

The government finds itself increasingly on the defensive, from the sale of a percentage of the Hassi Messaoud oil well that is not supported by the Algerian man in the street, to allegations that it is primarily an elitist government based on affiliation with western Algeria and that it is a government of a "clique of friends," in addition to the failure of a meeting called for discussion with [opposition] parties which Ghozali was counting on. This difficult position was crowned by rejection of the first draft of the budget law, and the insistence on retreating from the idea of raising the government subsidy of a number of consumer goods, and finally, the transformation of the disagreement between Ghozali and his predecessor, Mouloud Hamrouche, into an open battle in which the FLN press participates. Hamrouche himself set up this press, and Mehri, in turn, is directly responsible for it.

It is the opinion of some circles that Sid Ahmed Ghozali, who was seeking the independence of his government when he turned his back on the FLN, started feeling that he, like Mouloud Hamrouche and Kasdi Merbah, had made a mistake. It is also the opinion of these circles that Ghozali found himself without a base of popular partisan support. His attempts to find an alternative support outside the FLN were futile, as had been the case with Merbah and Hamrouche. The latter had criticized the FLN and had tried to break it up in favor of a party of technocrats. After spending one year in government, he realized that he had made a mistake. So, he returned to the FLN professing once again his attachment to it in order to guarantee himself a place in it.

However, will Ghozali succeed in attracting elements following Hamrouche within the central committee of the FLN with this reshuffle? Will he succeed in forming new alliances extending beyond the circle of long-time friends who have recently abandoned him, rather than support him as he confronts a difficult situation? To what extent is he thinking about breaking up this circle and expanding the ranks of the alliance? Is the time right for this or is it somewhat after the fact?

Many questions are being discussed in the living rooms of the Algerian political class. Even if all of the answers to these questions are in the affirmative, they will not succeed in dispelling the heavy political atmosphere which everyone feels, an atmosphere which is prompting people to believe that significant events are in the offing for Algeria during the coming weeks or even days.

Egypt

Pankin Views Mubarak Visit, Peace Conference

NC0210071191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin has told our radio correspondent in New York that President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union last week was a successful one. Pankin said that the meeting between the Soviet and Egyptian presidents was particularly significant in terms of affirming the strong ties between the two countries and the common desire to enlarge the scope of bilateral cooperation.

Minister Pankin said he hopes to visit Egypt and a number of Middle East countries before the convocation of a Middle East peace conference. Pankin said the conference is expected to be held at the end of this month, adding that consultations with the concerned parties still are needed to set the date for the conference.

Musa Says Conference To Be Held Late Oct-Nov

NC0110135991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that the Middle East peace conference will be held at the end of October or the beginning of November, noting that the United States is continuing its contacts with the parties concerned to convene the peace conference. The exact date and venue of the meeting will be set in the next few weeks.

Sidqi Reviews Economic Plans, Kuwaiti Loan

NC0110175791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and a number of senior economic officials today. They reviewed Egypt's economic situation and the government's current banking policy and discussed ways to bolster the money market for the good of the Egyptian economy.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi gave a statement after the two-hour meeting, which was attended by the Central Bank governor, the economy and finance ministers, the chairman of the money market commission, and the chairmen of the boards of directors of the four major public sector banks: Banque Misr, the National Bank of Egypt, Banque du Caire, and Bank of Alexandria.

Sidqi explained that some positive trends are emerging in the Egyptian economy, but several them need constant support. He said that a system of standardized foreign currency exchange rates was introduced today. He affirmed that this will enhance the stability of foreign currency rates and, consequently, that of the Egyptian pound.

The prime minister denied that this move will lead to higher foreign currency exchange rates and explained that any rise or fall in these rates depends on supply and demand. He said that the standardized system will increase the quantity of foreign currencies that are available and will bring about desired market stability. He added that the system will have other positive effects and will not cause the prices of basic commodities to rise.

On developing Egypt's banking system, the prime minister said that the government will try to finish preparing a bill which organizes banking operations in time to submit it to the People's Assembly when it begins its new term during the second week of November. He explained that this new law will give the Central Bank of Egypt a major role.

He added that President Mubarak also discussed ways of developing the money market in line with the state's economic liberalization policy. He stressed the importance of the money market's role in a liberal economy, which channels savings into investments that are beneficial to the national economy.

Sidqi pointed out that 80 to 90 percent of governorate-owned projects have been sold to the private sector, and he added that the public sector law's executive regulations will be issued within another week at the latest.

Regarding the Egyptian People's Assembly's postponement of action on the Kuwaiti loan, Sidqi said that some matters related to this loan were not clear to the assembly members, and this is why it will be resubmitted to the assembly once these matters have been clarified.

He added that the Kuwaiti loan contains generally easy terms, but it includes some formalities that made the People's Assembly request further discussion. He said that the necessary clarifications will be made for the People's Assembly members.

The prime minister explained that the loan contract follows the same norms that Kuwait applies to all loans, and this must be made clear to the People's Assembly members. He asserted that, if the loan had included unfair conditions, the Egyptian Government would not have accepted it.

On cooperation with the USSR, Sidqi said: We held a meeting several days ago after President Mubarak returned from Moscow and discussed ways of bolstering economic and trade cooperation with the USSR. He explained that Egypt must now take into account the developments occurring in the USSR. He noted that the Egyptian economy minister has formed a committee to study this matter.

Sidqi said that he had also met with the ministers concerned with this issue—the economy, finance, and international cooperation ministers—to discuss ways of promoting economic and trade ties, technical cooperation, and joint projects with the USSR.

Mauritania

Fifth Political Party Authorized 30 Sep

LD0110080691 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The national arena these days is witnessing a unique political dynamism distiguished by debates, gatherings, and new political parties. Thus, a new political party has emerged called the Justice Democratic Party. This new party was given license No. 5 on Monday, 30 September 1991. It is the fifth party, after the Rally for Democracy and Unity, the Republican Democratic and Social Party, the Mauritanian Renewal Party, and the Popular Democratic Unionist and Social Party.

Tunisia

RCD Political Bureau Condemns Abortive Coup

LD0210014391 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The Democratic Constitutional Rally [RCD] Political Bureau met this evening at RCD headquarters under the chairmanship of Hamned Karoui, deputy leader of the RCD and prime minister.

After a review of the general situation in the country following the terrorist conspiracy of the so-called Ennahdah movement against the country aimed at creating a constitutional vacuum to place the country in the vicious circle of violence and anarchy, the Political Bureau announces its strong condemnation of the terrorist conspiracy. It denounces this criminal act aimed at undermining the foundations of the republican system and harming Tunisia's political stability by plotting against the greatest and highest symbol of the state and its sovereignty—the architect of the transformation, President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, who saved these people from the gallows.

The Political Bureau records with pride the spontaneous popular reaction, rejecting the criminal acts and terrorist plots alien to our society. This rejection took various forms and was most prominent at the public meetings in various regions of the republic.

The Political Bureau expresses its appreciation for the patriotic stands of the civilian community, which denounced this criminal act after the truth of the terrorist nature of the so-called Ennahdah movement became clear to it. This confirms the failure, isolation, and popular rejection of the Ennahdah movement.

The Political Bureau affirms that its militants stand as a strong barrier against the forces of evil and terror. They are completely ready to defend the gains of the republican system.

The party activists proved in the past their ability to stand up to anyone who tries to harm Tunisia's independence and its invincibility. As in the past, they are resolved to confront the enemies of progress, democracy, and the homeland.

The Political Bureau announces the attachment of the RCD to the democratic process and its continuing the struggle for entrenching the civilian society that rejects all methods of violence and that is based on coexistence and tolerance.

The Political Bureau pleads with all citizens and all the dynamic forces in the country to confront terrorism and to stand as one alongside the architect of the transformation, President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, for the sake of Tunisia's strength, stability, and advancement.

The Political Bureau records with pride the security, stability, and tranquility that prevail in the country. This provides proof of the strength of the state institutions and the soundness of the directions of the new era, the vigilance of the strugglers, and the wisdom of the leadership.

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Communiques on Moroccan Settlers

Appeals to International Community

LD2809091691 Madrid RNE International in Spanish 1400 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] today complained that Moroccan authorities are continuing to concentrate participants in the new green march from southern Morocco in Western Sahara towns. The Polisario Front says in a communique issued by its information body that 25,000 new Moroccan settlers arrived in the Western Sahara in an operation aimed at jeopardizing the UN peace plan for this territory and at silencing Saharan voices. The Saharan leaders appeal to the international community to act quickly and energetically by compelling Morocco to end this practice. The communique also reports overflights by Moroccan aircraft over territories under Polisario control.

Says 30,000 Moroccans Head for Laayoune

LD2909085691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] A communique issued yesterday by the Saharan Information Ministry stated that 30,000 Moroccans have crossed northern Western Sahara heading for Laayoune. Those first batches had begun their journey from a number of Moroccan cities to join the 7,500 Moroccans who are already in Laayoune. The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] added that the Moroccan authorities are trying to hide this fact given the absence of the international press.

The ?olisario denounced such a measure, which jeopardizes the cease-fire agreement and violates the peace plan. The Polisario furthermore urged the international community and international public opinion to intervene to avert a bloodbath.

Demands Removal of Moroccans

LD3009085391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] has asked the United Nations to make a final decision regarding the problem of the list of voters in the referendum on Saharan self-determination which is due to be held in January. It is well known that Morocco has been asking the United Nations to enter a large number of names in the list of voters, claiming that they are Saharans. This has been rejected by the Polisario, which today demanded the removal of 30,000 Moroccans who have arrived in Western Sahara recently.

Says Morocco Violating Cease-Fire

LD0210013391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] has accused Morocco of violating the cease-fire in the Western Sahara. In a statement published today, the Polisario Front has indicated that the Moroccan air force had flown over a UN control center south of the Western Sahara.

The Polisario Front has also stressed that the Moroccan air force has violated the cease-fire five times since 6 September.

Bahrain

U.S. Nuclear Arms Reduction Initiative Hailed

JN0110114491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Manama, 1 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, has sent a cable to U.S. President George Bush in which he hailed his initiative to reduce nuclear weapons.

His highness stressed that this positive step contributes to a considerable extent in alleviating the world's fears and increasing hopes toward achieving an international community that directs its capabilities in service of humanity's objectives and realization of peace in a world that enjoys stability and satisfaction, and where efforts are made to secure the welfare of all world peoples.

Kuwait

U.S. Arms Cuts Seen as Part of World Trend

PM0110111691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 29 Sep 91 p 1

[Muhammad al-Rumayhi article: "From Making Weapons To Making Peace"]

[Excerpts] What is happening in the United States today is part of the change sweeping the entire world. And U.S. President George Bush's announcement yesterday about reducing defense industry programs, including strategic nuclear weapons, outlines some of the features of this change.

The change is characterized by a move away from war establishments toward peace establishments. The move presents not only a new economy, but new values, new ideas, and a new order based on making peace, instead of making weapons. [passage omitted]

We live in a world that is changing rapidly, President Bush said yesterday. Researchers at the influential Brookings Institute have produced a study that says that the Pentagon's budget can be reduced in the five-year plan by at least $300 billion. The reduction could reach $600 billion. In Washington you can see the happiness in people's faces when they hear these figures.

This is not a discourse about the United States, which our country's amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, is visiting, or about Bush, with whom the amir will meet in the next few days. It is about a changing world, of which we are part. It is about new values to which we are trying as hard as possible to contribute. It is clear that in the Arab-Israeli conflict and in the other local and regional conflicts numerous parties still live under their old delusions. They resort, or threaten to resort, to force, and use the language of aggression and war, when the wind of change is sweeping the entire world under the banner of peace. If Saddam and Shamir are the most famous of the self-deluders, generals such as [Sudanese President] Al-Bashir, who is resorting to the army to subjugate the people in the South, and presidents such as Yemen's 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who resort to the physical liquidation of their adversaries to resolve their problems, are no less deluded than Saddam and Shamir.

Just as war requires establishments, peace too requires establishments. As far as we in Kuwait, the peninsula, and the Gulf are concerned, this matter concerns us in particular, because we are still on the borderline of peace and have not yet moved out of the war, nor will we do so as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power. But because peace establishments are not built overnight, we must start right away to lay their foundations and outline their features in order to contribute to a future that will not be built by others alone.

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian President Mubarak To Visit 2 Oct

PM0110205191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Oct (SPA)—We have received the following news from the Royal Office:

God willing, His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, tomorrow begins a 2-day visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin-'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, will welcome him when he arrives at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport.

During their meetings the two great leaders are expected to cover the latest regional and international developments for the good of the two fraternal countries and the Arab and Islamic nation.

Yemen

Alleged Mosad Infiltration Attempt Foiled

JN0210081491 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Oct 91 p 1

[Placenames as published]

[Text] Sanaa, QNA—Press reports here disclosed yesterday that the Yemeni security authorities last week foiled attempts by Israeli Mosad elements to enter Yemen by sea.

The weekly AL-MUSTAQBAL newspaper cited security sources as saying that this attempt came following the discovery of large quantities of weapons that were smuggled aboard a ship but seized before the ship had a chance to dock.

AL-MITHAQ newspaper, mouthpiece of the General People's Congress, yesterday reported that the Yemeni security authorities in al-Mahrah governorate had impounded a ship carrying various weapons to be smuggled to Qashan District in al-Mahrah, and that the crew of the ship had been arrested. It is noteworthy that this is the first seaborne gunrunning attempt in Yemen.

Reaction to Bush's Arms Reduction Initiative

JN0110160291 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 30 Sep 91 p 2

[Article by Muhammad al-Sab'awi: "What Is Behind Bush's Initiative and the International 'Clamor'?"]

[Text] The media organs have been preoccupied over the past three days with U.S. President George Bush's initiative to get rid of "short-range nuclear weapons." And the reason for this is either to give the initiative "dramatic" importance or to follow up on the official reaction by other nuclear and non-nuclear states. The media organs were also concerned with showing the initiative as if it is "the greatest victory" in an attempt to polish the image of its owner and to put "the mask" of a human on his face.

The other "major" three in Moscow, Paris, and London are participating in the beating of drums and playing of clarinets that has been going on over the past three days to surround Bush's initiative with a ceremonial atmosphere. The three repeated words of admiration and entertainment like the ones used in an "Egyptian orchestra." The objective is clear; namely, to hide the reasons that made Bush "launch his initiative," and hide the real objectives of this initiative. Is this possible?

The human experiment shows that not all people dance to the same tune, and not every tune entertains the experienced and calm ears and mind.

Therefore, "apart" from entertainment and enjoyment, the experienced and calm mind can show the purpose or purposes of all this "clamor" on this "initiative" and can put it in its proper perspective.

The initiative does not mean the removal of all nuclear weapons. And Bush might not call for this, because he clearly confined his call to "short-range" weapons. He has his reasons and goals for this. The following are the most prominent reasons and goals:

A. America's weapons of this type reach targets only in East European countries—no longer adversaries after having fallen in the American basket.

B. The similar weapons possessed by the Soviet Union—once an adversary—are scattered in three or four republics, and there is no guarantee that these republics will be ruled by U.S.-tailored leaderships. Removing these weapons, therefore, ensures that these republics will be without claws, regardless of the type of their leaders. To the United States, this is an additional precautionary measure.

C. The plan also takes off the nuclear claws of the European allies, especially France, within a process of collective removal. There is fear from the fluctuating, uncertain French position, but with Mitterrand in power, there is a chance now to tame France. There is also a chance to block the road in front of the German giant, if he thinks of moving in this direction.

In effect, this will maintain Washington's monopoly over long-range strategic nuclear weapons, with the existence of (optimal) conditions for negotiations with Moscow—Bush has asked for speedy negotiations. Moscow will not be in a position to reject the U.S. "conditions" so as to eliminate the burden of competition and remove the strategic weapons it possesses in return for (a loaf of bread) given not by Washington, but by Europe!

Moreover, the plan, in the final analysis, eases the burden on the U.S. economy, which has been moaning under inflation and recession.

Does the plan, then, merit this festive reaction? As far as the United States is concerned, the answer is yes. But what about the others, especially Gorbachev, Mitterrand, and Major, and the rest of the chorus (they are up on their feet, ready to dance to this American tune)? It is said that if you know the motive, you will not be surprised; and it appears that the motive of each one of these is not difficult to comprehend.

Further Reaction

JN0110192991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1735 GMT 1 Oct 91

[From the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Text] From the outside, the U.S. President's decision to cut nuclear weapons in the U.S. arsenal looks like a U.S. initiative to guarantee world peace and security. Many political observers view this decision with skepticism, however, as it again reveals the contradiction in U.S. politics. Observers ask: Why is the U.S. Administration deploying its weapons in the Arab Gulf region or close to its shores? And why did the Bush administration not take a serious move to freeze the Zionist nuclear activity, which poses the gravest danger to the Arab region? Those observers affirm that the effects of the U.S. decision to reduce nuclear weapons remain limited unless it is coupled with a significant step represented by a U.S. withdrawal of all nonconventional and sophisticated weapons that were stockpiled in the Zionist entity's arsenal during and after the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

The political observers believe that clearing the Arab region of the nonconventional weapons stockpiled in the Zionist entity's arsenal will help facilitate the peace process in the region, and that such a move is considered one of the most basic requirements of the peace process.

Dear listeners, Murshid al-Zubaydi, the political writer in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, speaks on our program, Spotlight on the News, concerning the U.S. President's decision to cut nuclear weapons in the U.S. arsenal and the objectives behind this decision. He says:

[Begin al-Zubaydi recording] We notice that before the Gulf events, before the Atlantic-U.S.-Zionist aggression against Iraq, there were many balanced calls in the world. It seems to me that one of the most prominent

among these was Iraq's call for a comprehensive and balanced reduction of weapons of mass destruction, especially in the Middle East, provided that such a move coincides with many measures to achieve a regional balance besides an international balance. Iraq declared that it did not object to destroying all of its weapons of mass destruction, provided that the weapons of the other side, the Zionist entity, also be destroyed. We noticed then that the U.S. President and his allies did not respond to that call, however. This is because they wanted to destroy Iraqi power and maintain Israeli power.

It is known that the Israeli nuclear, biological, and chemical program began earlier this century. It seems that some information indicates that Israel began to acquire nuclear weapons in the fifties, and developed them well in the sixties. There are some Israelis who have begun to talk about this. The United States, as a superpower and a state with advanced intelligence services and technical apparatuses that know many things in the world, certainly knows that the Zionist entity possesses such weapons. Why, for example, did the U.S. President call for the destruction of Iraq's power but not call for the destruction of Israel's power? This leads us to another question: Does the U.S. President's current call mean a reduction in the West's weapons in return for a reduction in the East's weapons? My assumption is that even if the U.S. President says such a thing, he practically does not seek to implement it. This is because after the recent events in the Soviet Union, last year's events in Eastern Europe, and after the Gulf war—or which we call the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq—we noticed that the United States was seeking to be the only major pole in the world through [word indistinct] the policy of hegemony over the Soviet Union, Europe, the Middle East, and the Arab Gulf region. For this purpose, it achieved maritime control in the Arabian Gulf region and (?neutralized) anti-U.S. forces in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Now, Bush personally seeks to be the indisputable leader of the world. The United States is seeking to be the only dominating pole in the world. All this prompts us to doubt the U.S. President's calls, which are attempts to throw dust in the eyes to achieve hegemony and control over the world. [end recording]

Names of Firms Aiding Nuclear Project Held

AU0110111091 Paris AFP in English 1100 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Vienna, Oct 1 (AFP)—The names of Western companies which contributed to the Iraqi nuclear programme will not be revealed until the United Nations Security Council gives its approval, IAEA spokesman David Kyd said here on Tuesday. Kyd said that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was waiting for instructions from the Security Council, which had to decide on what was a political matter.

Documents seized by U.N. inspectors in Baghdad contained copies of contracts with several Western companies which had contributed to the Iraqi nuclear programme, Kyd had said on Sunday.

The U.N. team, led by U.S. national David Kay, was now in Bahrain to examine 27,000 pages of documents which had been seized, together with 20 hours of video recorded material and about 700 photographs, Kyd said.

This sixth mission of U.N. experts would prepare a report on the Iraqi nuclear programme.

The report would be sent to U.N. headquarters in New York at the end of the week, and the seized documents would be sent to Vienna. The experts were to return to Vienna by Friday at the latest and would give a press conference.

Detailed analysis of the documents would take several weeks, Kyd said.

Kay had said on Monday, shortly after arriving in Bahrain, that Iraq was still working on a sophisticated nuclear programme.

A seventh IAEA mission was due to visit Iraq in October to continue inspections of potential nuclear facilities, the IAEA said in a statement.

UN Reportedly Renews Regret Over Kay's Actions

JN0110194191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Oct (INA)—The UN General Secretariat could not evade its responsibility after the mission of David Kay, leader of the sixth nuclear inspection team, had been exposed. News agencies and television networks reported Iraq's accusation that Kay is an officer in the Central Intelligence Agency and that the Bush administration is using the United Nations for intelligence purposes.

A report from New York said that the UN General Secretariat today renewed its regret over David Kay's passing of the documents he obtained in Baghdad to American authorities in Washington.

Francois Guliani, [name as received] official spokesman for the UN secretary general, said in a statement today that this matter is inappropriate and regrettable. He added that UN officials should submit their reports to the United Nations only, not to any government. This is the permanent policy of the United Nations, he said.

Commentators in New York noted that despite this clear and frank confession, the United Nations seems it has no intention to punish David Kay for his violation of UN rules.

Minister: Turkey To Raise Oil Pipeline Fees

NC0110163491 Paris AFP in English 1529 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 1 (AFP)—Iraqi Oil Minister Usama al-Hiti in remarks published Tuesday accused Turkey of raising transit fees by 700 percent on an Iraqi oil pipeline that ends on the Turkish Mediterranean coast.

Cited by the Defense Ministry organ, the daily Al-Qadisiya, Hiti said that following Ankara's decision, the fees would jump from 43 cents to 2.77 dollars for a barrel of Iraqi crude oil passing through the pipline linking the northern fields of Karkuk with the port of Yumurtalik.

Hiti said his country would have to pay Turkey 264 million dollars, rather than the agreed-upon 41 million dollars for the passage of 97 million barrels of oil worth 1.6 billion dollars set by the United Nations.

In an interview published Monday with the Nicosia-based newsletter Middle East Economic Survey, the minister dismissed reports that Turkey had officially approached Iraq for an increase in the pipeline transit fee, adding that it was a bilateral issue.

On Sunday, Iraq said it was prepared to resume oil exports but slammed United Nations restrictions on such sales as violating national sovereignty.

In early September, the U.N. Security Council authorized Iraq to export 1.6 billion dollars' worth of oil in order to pay for food and medicine.

On Sunday, Hiti told the official Iraqi News Agency his government was ready to "reactivate commercial ties with its former partners and to re-gain its place on the oil market."

But he did not say if the government would accept restrictions imposed by Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 on the sale of the oil.

The Iraqi daily AL-JUMHURIYAH said Monday that pumping stations along the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline were under repair and would become operational again by the end of March 1992 to put out 1.59 million barrels of oil per day.

The double pipeline, stretching 986 kilometers (612 miles) into Turkish territory, was closed by Ankara in August 1990 in keeping with an embargo slapped by the U.N. after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last year.

Turkey had joined the anti-Iraq coalition that ousted Baghdad's forces from the emirate following a seven-month occupation.

Contacts Underway To Expose War 'Crimes'

JN0110150591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Oct (INA)—Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri, head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, has declared that the society is currently holding intensive contacts with the leaders of the international Red Crescent and Red Cross societies to set up an international group to expose the brutal crimes committed by the United States and its allies during their aggression against Iraq, especially the heinous crime of burying large numbers of Iraqi soldiers alive in their trenches.

In a statement to INA, Dr. al-Nuri said that contacts are underway with Dr. Ahmad Abu-Qurah, head of the permanent international committee of Red Crescent and Red Cross societies, and Dr. Mawlud Bal'awan, vice president of League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to discuss the measures required to establish this international group.

He indicated that the purpose of establishing this group is to explain to world public opinion the crimes committed by the United States and its allies during the 30-state aggression against Iraq and these states' insistence on maintaining the economic blockade that has resulted in the death of thousands of children and elderly as result of the acute food and medicine shortage.

USSR's Pankin To Visit in 'Coming Weeks'

TA0110144091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin will visit Israel in the coming weeks, the prime minister told the weekly cabinet meeting. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that in his talks in Jerusalem, Pankin will discuss the resumption of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR before the peace conference convenes. The prime minister pointed out that raising the level of ties to full diplomatic relations is a condition for the Soviet role as a sponsor of the conference. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will also come for an additional round of talks in the region this month, the prime minister said.

Defense elements reported to the cabinet that the Palestine National Council resolutions to approve Palestinian participation in the peace conference is a victory for the 'Arafat camp and the pragmatic wing in the PLO. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that it was pointed out in the meeting that the demand for Palestinian self-determination is no longer a precondition for their participation in the peace process and an issue to be discussed before the negotiations, but is now an issue to be raised within the actual negotiating framework. According to the report to the cabinet, this is a PLO attempt to present positive resolutions to the outside world without yielding on the organization's positions of principle.

Yitzhaq Shamir told the ministers that Secretary Baker, during his last visit to Jerusalem, raised several proposals on the guarantees for immigrant absorption, but none contained a commitment that Israel would receive the guarantees when the issue is raised for discussion after the 120-day delay. Israel, therefore, rejected the proposals, and talks on the guarantees are continuing through Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval. The prime minister stressed that Israel has no interest in a fight or confrontation with the U.S. Administration on that issue.

Shamir Views Palestinian Contacts With PLO

TA0210093191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Oct 91 p 2

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Avi Mahanaymi]

[Text] In a private conversation with a senior defense figure some time ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was asked whether he is aware of the fact that Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi are meeting with PLO leaders in Tunis. Shamir replied: "I do not care. Let them meet. Let them consult whomever they want. As long as it is a matter of consultations, I am not disturbed."

Sources associated with the prime minister have claimed that, in view of this stand, Shamir did not object to al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi's trip to Tunis and Algiers. The two have held at least three meetings with PLO leaders over the last two months.

Shamir's stand does not result from a change in attitude toward the Palestinians; it is rather the outcome of U.S. pressure, applied by the secretary of state, to allow al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi to shuttle between Jerusalem and Tunis to find the "golden mean" that will allow the Palestinians to participate in the peace conference. This U.S. move was proven correct last week when al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi's appearance in Algiers tipped the scales, sweeping the members of the Palestinian parliament to vote by a broad majority in favor of attending the peace conference.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 2 October carries a report on page 1 by Dan Avidan, Hemi Shalev, Drora Perl, and news agencies, adding: "Israel made it clear to the United States that it has verified information that Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi attended the Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting in Algiers last week. Political sources in Jerusalem believe that following this message, Secretary of State James Baker decided not to meet with the two in Washington. The sources reported that Baker decided to postpone his meeting in order to avoid exacerbating the tension in relations with Israel after Ambassador Zalman Shoval made it clear to him that such a meeting 'would pose a problem.' The Americans hope that by postponing the meeting, they will make Israel continue its current policy of publicly ignoring the pair's participation in the PNC meeting and will keep it from taking steps against them.

["At the same time, Jerusalem is not certain that such a meeting will not be held at a later date. No decision has been made yet on how to react in this event. For various reasons, Israel views a meeting in Washington differently than it does one held during a Baker tour of the region."]

Said Agreed to Jordanian From Jerusalem

TA0210100191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Oct 91 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has agreed to the participation of a Jordanian Jerusalemite [Yardeni-Yerushalmi] in negotiations between Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, provided this representative is a Jordanian official [previous word in English]. This fact has been learned from sources close to the peace process.

Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the prime minister's bureau, said in reaction that as long as it remains clear that Jerusalem is not up for negotiations and that no resident of East Jerusalem is included in the debates, the origins of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation members are of no import. It should be noted that a number of top officials of the Jordanian regime were originally from Jerusalem. At present, the United States is pressuring the

Palestinians to waive their demand that the Jerusalemite representative be a Palestinian currently residing in the city. [passage omitted]

Minister Magen—U.S. Trying To Exert Pressure

TA0110174991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] After the prime minister briefed the cabinet today, Ministers Ze'evi and Ne'eman reiterated their demand to stop the peace process. The Moledet leader said the peace process is harmful to Israel. The Tehiya leader said the United States is now hostile to Israel. Even Likud Minister David Magen criticized Washington's policy toward Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] [Magen] The United States, known as the largest democratic superpower in the world, is aware of the weaknesses of the only democracy in the Middle East and is apparently trying to create internal political pressures in addition to international political pressure.

[Golan] When you say internal political pressure, do you mean the Americans want to cause the Likud's downfall and transfer power to the Alignment under Shim'on Peres?

[Magen] I would not go that far. I believe the experience of March 1990 [when the Alignment-initiated Knesset no-confidence motion against the government failed] taught even the Americans a lesson. All I am saying is that it is a U.S. attempt to make the issue more poignant while detracting from its significance and to pressure us and push us into a corner. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

The atmosphere of suspicion and lack of trust between Jerusalem and Washington has thus not left us.

Ne'eman: Bush Barred Military Strike During War

TA0110193391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] A direct warning by the U.S. President prevented an Israeli action during the Gulf war, Professor Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, said today. Minister Ne'eman disclosed that one day during the Gulf war the Israeli Government intended to authorize a military action and only a direct warning from the U.S. President to the prime minister prevented it. Now, according to the minister, President Bush says that U.S. soldiers endangered themselves for Israel's sake.

Minister Ne'eman stressed that President Bush has the most anti- Israeli leaning of any U.S. President so far. Referring to the political negotiations, Minister Ne'eman said that joining such talks means putting one's neck into the hangman's noose. He added that his party, Tehiya, supports early elections, which might come about with the cooperation of left-wing parties.

Argentina's Menem Arrives for Talks

TA0110180191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Menem believes that something can be done to advance the resolution of the problem of Israel's MIA's and POW's. He made these remarks upon arrival in Israel this afternoon. The Argentine president was received at Ben-Gurion Airport by Health Minister Ehud Olmert. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports from the airport:

Addressing reporters here at the airport, President Menem started by declaring that he is glad to be in Israel where he will pursue a dialogue with the government of a nation that he loves and admires. Asked about the POW and MIA issue, he said: It is possible to help with this matter. I would like to do something to help with the hostage problem, and progress is possible.

Referring to the peace process, President Menem cited Plato: Dialogue is the art of civilized nations. For that reason, Menem believes, it is essential to invest maximum efforts in the creation of a dialogue.

The visiting president will be greeted at a formal reception in Jerusalem's Rose Garden tomorrow. Later he will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and lunch with President Hayim Herzog. After that, he will visit the Knesset.

Herzog, Menem Speak

TA0210082791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Menem launched his state visit to Israel at a ceremony held at the Rose Garden in Jerusalem this morning. President Hayim Herzog, who greeted the visitor, noted that Carlos Menem is the first Argentine president to visit Israel. Mr. Herzog mentioned the pleasant memories he has retained from his visit to Argentina and stressed the good and friendly relations between Israel and Argentina.

President Menem spoke of the historic significance of his visit to Israel, noting that the people of Israel should serve as an example for all mankind. He expressed the hope that peace will prevail in this region.

Today the Argentine president will meet with President Herzog, hold a talk with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and visit Mount Herzl and Yad Vashem. In addition, he will be awarded an honorary degree by Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Norwegian Defense Minister Arrives, Meets Arens

TA0110134191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Holst arrived in Israel this morning as a guest of Defense Minister

Moshe Arens. In a meeting, Minister Arens said that the Gulf war has taught us that distant countries can harm the Israeli population with missiles and we should remember this lesson when working to promote the peace process, which is aimed at reaching direct negotiations with the Arab countries.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the two ministers discussed the situation in southern Lebanon, where a Norwegian contingent forms a part of UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon]. The Norwegian minister noted the improved relations between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Norwegian UNIFIL contingent.

NRP Opposes Early Elections, Urges Settlement

TA0110153491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] In a meeting dedicated to political matters, the NRP [National Religious Party] decided today not to move for early elections. The NRP decision states that the party institutions will be convened as necessitated by political developments. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the NRP decision also calls on the government to continue the settlement drive, which is a vital requirement for the survival of the State of Israel.

Likud Knesset Members Depart for Egypt

TA0210094091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The delegation of Likud Knesset members [MK's] has left for Egypt. The delegation includes Sara Doron, the Likud faction chairperson; Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee; and MK's 'Uzi Landau and Hayim Kaufman.

Ms. Doron told an ITIM reporter that in the course of the visit, the delegation will demand that the Egyptians take a more active part in the efforts toward peace between Israel and the other Arab countries.

The departing MK's were seen off at the airport by Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0730 GMT on 2 October adds that "Muhammad Basyuni said at the airport that the Likud delegation's visit to Egypt is very important in that it will help to promote the peace process."]

Jordan Seen Doing 'Utmost' To Secure Border

TA0110185091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The Jordanian Army is doing its utmost to prevent terrorist elements from conducting terrorist acts against Israel from Jordanian territory out of concern that this might hinder the peace process. This was affirmed today by a senior military source to our correspondent Dani Levi.

The source added that it is expected that the PLO will soon coordinate positions with the Jordanian authorities in the wake of the Palestine National Council's adoption of a decision endorsing the PLO's participation in the peace conference.

This source noted that the situation in Jordan has recently improved and the influence of the Islamic factions there has declined after the withdrawal of those factions from the Jordanian Government.

Country Blamed for Delaying Arrival of EC Envoy

TA0110211391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The EC blames Israel for holding up permission for the EC representative to come here to handle European aid to the Palestinians in the territories. Gwyn Morgan, EC ambassador to Israel, said in Jerusalem that the EC talks with Israel reached a deadlock in July because Israel conditioned the representative's ability to work here on its right to participate in deciding where the European funds would be invested. Such a condition is unacceptable to the EC leaders, he stressed. Morgan hinted that Israel's refusal might influence its relations with the EC on other issues. The EC wants to invest in industry for exports and improve education and health in the territories.

Arabs Protest Against Evacuation for Immigrants

TA2809153691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] A demonstration has just ended without mishap in the [Arab] village of Rama near Karmi'el. The rally protested a plan to evacuate the village residents for the construction of a housing project for immigrants. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that at the demonstration Rama villagers collected signatures protesting the evacuation. The demonstration, which was attended by several hundred, was heavily guarded by police and border police.

Foreign Minister al-Nasur Views Peace Process

PM0210095091 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Sep 91 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Dirgham] What happened at the meeting the day before yesterday between the five frontline states' foreign ministers and the Arab League secretary general? Was there a discussion of coordination at the peace conference and the positions of these states and parties on the peace process?

[Al-Nusur] You will recall that the recent Arab League Council meeting Cairo adopted one of the Arab League's most important resolutions on the Palestinian issue. It agreed to the principle of the participation in the peace process of the states surrounding Israel, including the PLO, which were called the ring states [duwal al-Tawq]; and to their seeking to implement Resolutions 242 and 338 in accordance with the land-for-peace principle. These five states called for coordination among themselves and asked the secretary general to make the necessary contacts for such coordination. And this is what has happened. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid called for the five states to meet here (in New York) on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly proceedings. It was the first coordinating meeting, and we attended it. At the meeting a round of consultations took place on forms of coordination, its degree, its level, and when to begin it. Issues concerning the substance, not the procedures, were raised; in other words, the guarantees sought by this or that Arab quarter were presented. This is in addition to the negotiation process, its duration, and the deadline set for some quarters to complete negotiation tasks. There was also a discussion of the need for the Arabs to adopt a unified position on the basis of their understanding of Security Council Resolution 242. This is because there are various interpretations by various parties, including the Israeli adversary, which has a bad interpretation of the resolution and believes that it fulfills all that is in the resolution. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] When will the coordination begin; is there a possibility of holding a five-way summit, and, if so, when and where?

[Al-Nusur] Some Arab parties want an Arab summit. We are one of these parties, and a number of brothers share our view. The invitations will be sent out very soon, according to what was discussed. The date is up for the leaders to determine.

[Dirgham] Who will send out the invitations?

[Al-Nusur] It is premature for me to announce that. But several quarters want the summit to be held on their territory.

[Dirgham] Do you mean that there is unanimity on holding the five-way summit?

[Al-Nusur] It has not been decided whether a summit will be held, nor has its date been decided. It was discussed within the proposal. Undoubtedly the ministers will return to their states and leaders to seek a positive response before announcing it. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] What is your understanding of the peace process? We understand that there will be a ceremonial opening of the conference, then bilateral negotiations, then the regional talks would begin two weeks later. Is this sequence acceptable to all Arab parties?

[Al-Nusur] I believe that there is Arab and international conviction that we should avoid ready cliches in the Middle East. What is required here is for all Arab parties to test Israel's intentions when it comes to the peace conference: Is it serious, in earnest, and interested, or does it want all the prospects for such a conference to disappear?

Israel believes time is on its side and against the Arabs' interests. It believes Palestinian territory is eroding; settlements are being built daily; the world is abandoning our cause, being preoccupied with other issues; Arab weakness has never been greater; and the desired military confrontation is too far from reality. It also believes Arab estrangement is at its peak; oil is no longer a weapon in our hands; our resources are no longer a powerful weapon; our alliances have centered on parties other than us; and the last two years have brought the worst thing possible for the Arab nation. So what is required is to stop Israel's aggression, expansion, and desire to occupy more of the neighboring Arab states' territories. This is a reality that should not be denied. This is in addition to protecting some of the Palestinian land against erosion and against being lost to settlements.

This is what is being discussed. So there is an Arab conviction that Israel is not interested in peace, but procrastinating, lying, and insulting all the proposals offered by the various parties. One Arab view says, let us try Israel; we will lose nothing. Perhaps some people—namely, those who believe that even sitting down with Israel means losing, as it does—but the Arab nation accepted Israel's existence and recognized it when it accepted Resolutions 242 and 338 [sentence as published]. Even the PLO has openly declared its acceptance of Israel's right to exist. So what are we aiming for? It is a meeting at a conference under the spotlight and before the media—something that is embarrassing psychologically, rather than legally.

[Dirgham] There are questions such as the choice of Palestinians and the joint delegation issue, since procedural arrangements have been drawn up and many options and Arab positions have been withdrawn. The objection is not simply to sitting down at the negotiating table, but maybe to what has been conceded before entering the negotiations.

[Al-Nusur] What is important is the territory, and anything other than the territory is of little importance. All the other procedural issues are secondary and matters of form. True, the form leads to the essence, but the important thing is that our mental perception says that the main aim is to salvage the land, not to compete among ourselves over this or that representation. All these are pretexts designed to thwart the process of restoring the land to its owners and implementing Resolution 242, which we have always demanded be implemented in accordance with the land-for-peace formula, the principle of Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and their right to repatriation and compensation. Negotiation is just a process and does not entail signing a treaty. Nor does it mean reconciliation with Israel or surrendering anything to it. Signing comes after agreement. So if negotiators find that Israel has nothing to offer, then matters remain as they are.

[Dirgham] The land factor is not in the cards, at least in the transitional period, and there is no linkage between that stage and the final status of the occupied territories. We hear talk of the possibility of implementing withdrawal from some Arab territories under what some circles call partial deals. For example, Israel's withdrawal from the Golan has been cited. But matters are not clear regarding the Palestinians and the Palestinian territories.

[Al-Nusur] First, the U.S. letter of assurances concerning the peace plan stemming from President George Bush's initiative to Congress 6 March openly states: This initiative seeks to implement Resolution 242, which entails land for peace. So the issue is one of territory, not of refugees or evacuees. The U.S. initiative, the U.S. invitation letter, and the U.S. letter of intent given to the various parties say that the Israeli presence in the territories occupied after 4 June (1967) is illegal, that all cases of annexation affecting the Golan or Jerusalem are illegal, that no territory—including Jerusalem—is excluded from negotiation, and that the Jerusalem issue must be negotiated in the second stage.

No Arab can agree—nor would any do so—to negotiate with the adversary without Jerusalem. It is an impossibility that cannot be contemplated. Jerusalem will be in the second part of the negotiation. The negotiations will be in two stages: The first concerns arrangements for Palestinian autonomy for a limited period—two years—then negotiations on the final stage begin in the third year, and they will not last more than a year.

The letter emphasized that the Jerusalem issue and the Palestinian right to repatriation and compensation—even for those inside the green line—cannot be excluded. The letter of assurances said that the Palestinians outside [the occupied territories] are entitled to participate in the second stage of negotiations from anywhere in Palestine.

This is mentioned in the letter of assurances handed to the various parties, including Jordanians and Palestinians. The letter addressed to the Palestinians was handed to us officially.

True, our Palestinian brothers wish to obtain further assurances. They are entitled to do so and it is their duty to seek more. We are now awaiting the results of the Palestine National Council to see whether or not the assurances are sufficient.

I recall brother Yasir 'Arafat's statement: The question of the Palestinian delegation's representation of this or that town or this or that village would been secondary if we has been given assurances about our right to self-determination and the restoration of our territory. That is the important thing.

I support this correct view. We should adhere to the land and not to adhere as strongly to any other issue.

[Dirgham] Is Jordan committed to attending the conference, even without the Palestinians?

[Al-Nusur] Jordan is committed to a comprehensive solution of the Palestinian issue. A comprehensive solution embraces all the issues and all the parties, and does not exclude the Palestinians. So if the peace conference does not discuss the Palestinian issue, of what use will be? It will be of no use if it does not discuss it with the Palestinians. So there is no going without them. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] What did you take from your meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker?

[Al-Nusur] Obviously we discussed bilateral relations and the regional situation. Whenever an opportunity arises we coordinate to discuss whatever is likely to improve relations between the two countries, clarify positions, and convey the Jordanian Arab view to the U.S. side. This is what we did. And certainly when matters are clear they lead to an improvement in relations—which is what is happening now. [passage omitted]

Al-Musawi Wants Israel To Free More Prisoners

NC0110161791 Paris AFP in English 1459 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Beirut, Oct 1 (AFP)—A senior Shiite cleric on Tuesday hinted at a new snag in efforts to free Western hostages, demanding additional prisoner releases by Israel and warning that the hostage issue could drag on for 10 to 20 years.

Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, head of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement, said Israel would have to free more of its Muslim and Palestinian prisoners before his group would return the remains of two Israeli servicemen.

He also charged that Israel was holding 19,000 Palestinians "without trial" in the occupied territories and suggested that they too would have to be freed. But it was not clear if he saw their release as a new condition for ending the hostage crisis.

His remarks to journalists cast a shadow over speculation that two more captives—probably American—would go free this week. Shaykh 'Abbas said the problem of Western hostages, Israeli-held prisoners and missing Israeli soldiers was "heading toward a solution, but this settlement is still at the beginning." "It's a delicate matter. There are complications and opposing conditions. It's a battle that could last long, even 10 or 20 years."

Hizballah (party of God) has always denied holding any of the nine Westerners—five Americans, a Briton, two Germans and an Italian—still in captivity in Lebanon. But the movement is believed to have close ties to militant pro-Iranian groups that have seized hostages and are pressing for the release by Israel of 350 mainly Lebanese Shiite prisoners held in southern Lebanon and in Israel itself.

Israeli authorities accepted the deal but on condition that they received reliable information on servicemen missing in Lebanon since 1982.

Shaykh 'Abbas on Tuesday refused to provide details on the status of two Israeli soldiers he said Hizballah had captured.

"We can't reveal all our cards, and parties that hold hostages must show a certain level of reason. Everything has its price. All information has its price and Israel, which freed 51 Lebanese detainees, should complete this step and liberate Lebanese and Palestinians," he stressed.

Israel on September 11 freed 51 of its prisoners, after receiving reports on two of its servicemen via the United Nations. In a delayed response the pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organization (RJO) set free British hostage Jack Mann on September 24.

Israel now wants to know what happened to its remaining five servicemen missing in Lebanon in exchange for further prisoner releases. "The exchange is still in its initial stages," according to Shaykh 'Abbas. "It has not reached a stage where we are convinced of the need to exchange even a single body. When Israel completes the step, an exchange will be possible."

But he added: "An overall deal is under way and Israel must free not only the Lebanese but the Palestinians as well. There are 19,000 Palestinians held without trial in the occupied territories, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Both Israel and the kidnappers in Lebanon since early August have responded to intervention by United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his emissaries.

The U.N. chief has been trying to piece together a step-by-step procedure to secure an overall resolution to the hostage question.

The latest momentum began with the release of Briton John McCarthy by Islamic Jihad on August 8 was kept alive with the liberation of American Edward Tracy by the RJO three days later.

Hizballah Holds SLA Members, Israeli Hostage

NC0210061791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi has said that there should be no overoptimism about an imminent solution to the hostage issue. He urged Israel to release all the detainees it holds. He said Israel's release of 51 detainees and the handing over of the POW's bodies was an incomplete measure. He announced that Hizballah is holding an Israeli prisoner and more than three members of the South Lebanese Army.

General Lahd Suspends Release of Detainees

NC0210061991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander General Antoine Lahd has suspended the release of more detainees until he obtains information about the fate of missing Israeli soldiers, as well as SLA soldiers captured during operations in southern Lebanon.

He said: We have released some detainees as a goodwill gesture so that the other parties will do the same and provide us with sufficient information about our missing soldiers and the Israeli soldiers. So far we have received nothing.

He added: Since we have not received this information, the swapping operation will be suspended.

Syrian Forces Reduce Roadblocks in Tripoli

NC0210074491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Citing arrivals from the north, AL-NAHAR newspaper said Syrian forces have reduced their roadblocks in the port and in Tripoli. The arrivals added that they also have noticed a rotation process by the Syrian forces in the area.

Foreign Minister Meets Saudi Counterpart

JN2909093691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' last night met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session to discuss bilateral relations and agenda items for the UN session.

Khaddam Receives Lebanese Prime Minister

JN3009181091 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at 1800 today. Discussions dealt with the latest developments in the region and Lebanon, as well as efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Commentary on Israeli Politics, Peace Process

JN0110154191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The tone of Israeli statements against peace in the Middle East has escalated. Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir considers the United States to be a biased judge. He even went to the extent of accusing President Bush of attempting to dictate political decisions to his government.

The truth, known to all, is that to Shamir there is no middle-of-the-road solution: One is either is totally biased toward Israel and adopts all its schemes, or one is hostile to it. For many years, the United States has continued to provide Israel with all kinds of aid and has supported its political stands to the extent that there was the belief among many countries that the United States implements an Israeli policy and has no American policy of its own.

Today, while the United States is trying to distance itself from the aggressive Zionist schemes and is pushing Tel Aviv to take the road of peace and respect international law, Shamir revolts and accuses Bush of dictating political decisions to Israel. It is only natural that Shamir's stand is deceptive and misleading. The United States has never once abandoned its special relationship with the Zionist entity and has not cut its aid to Israel. It has frozen a $10 billion loan request until such time as it makes sure that Israel is ready to take the road to peace.

If the United States is applying pressure on Shamir's government, it does so to force it into the peace process. And peace is beneficial to all sides and to the world. It is the objective of the countries in the region and their leaders, with the exception of Shamir, of course. This is because the Israeli prime minister has practiced organized terrorism and the scorched earth policy against the Palestinian people and the countries in the region for his entire life, which teems with all kinds of massacres and crimes. The only good Arab, in his opinion, is a dead Arab. Shamir sees no solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict other than expelling the Palestinian people from all Palestinian territories and absorbing the largest amount of Arab lands around Palestine.

Shamir is surrounded by a number of Zionist extremists such as Sharon, Eytan, and Ze'evi. Sharon has revealed Israeli expansionist schemes in the Arabian Gulf region and Saudi Arabia. In fact, these schemes extend to countries such as Algeria and Pakistan. As for Eytan and Ze'evi, on every possible occasion they call for immediately expelling the Palestinians from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem and driving them away en masse toward Jordan.

When Shamir himself announces that he wants to expand the settlement area; that the Arab territories are more important than peace; that there will be no withdrawal from these territories under any circumstances; and that he will give the Arabs peace in return only for peace, then he leaves the United States no choice other than to keep away from Israel or enter into a flagrant and aggressive war with it against the Arabs in their various countries. After promising to respect the UN resolutions before the whole world and pledging to apply them, the United States cannot afford to lose its credibility. President Bush, who presented proposals to all sides and which were accepted by the Arabs, cannot go back on convening the international peace conference on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338, because going back on them means that the U.S. reputation and prestige will collapse, that the law of the jungle will prevail, and that Israel will impose its hegemony on U.S. political decisionmaking, in addition to involving the United States in supporting Israel's aggressive wars against the Arabs.

The truth, no longer secret to anyone, is that the more aid the United States gives Israel, the more Israel will harm U.S. interests, image, and prestige in the Middle East and the world. Since Israel's leaders today realize it is impossible for the United States to go back on its peace efforts, they are now talking about early elections and seeking to push events toward an American-Zionist confrontation whether on the level of Israel itself or on the level of the Zionist lobby. They believe that dissolving the Knesset is a way to freeze U.S. efforts while they await a more appropriate opportunity in which they can attack peace efforts and renew their tutelage over U.S. political decisionmaking.

Afghanistan

Najibollah Urges Unity Government

LD2609194191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Speech by President Najibollah at joint session of Meli Shura (National Assembly) in Kabul on 25 September—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed member delegates of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan: Recently a new movement arose for a political solution of the Afghanistan question. The Soviet-U.S. joint statement was issued in the light of the declaration by His Excellency Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan—within the first hours after the statement was issued—welcomed it officially. Subsequently, the esteemed presidents of both houses of parliament were informed about the contents of the aforementioned statement. Meetings of the Wolasi Jerga [Council of Representatives] and of the Sena [Senate] of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan were held in connection with the statement in a true atmosphere of the feeling of responsibility by the representatives of the people toward the cessation of bloodshed and the political solution of the question of Afghanistan. I learned about the matters that were discussed in the sessions of the parliament regarding the political and peaceful solution of the question of Afghanistan and showed my interest by putting forward the viewpoints of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan in one of the parliamentary sessions to esteemed members of the Meli Shura.

A number of esteemed delegates and senators have also previously submitted proposals concerning the search for and finding a way toward a political solution and the cessation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, and they had asked to discuss and debate this important national question. We affirm this demand of the delegates and senators and attach importance to them as the fundamental demand of the people of Afghanistan. We are making efforts toward its implementation. Also a number Meli Shura members have put forward a proposal concerning the prevention of administrative problems and improvement in the affairs of the state administration, the observation of public interest in socioeconomic and political affairs, the creation of further contact and understanding with the opposition, the maintenance of security throughout the country, demand for the speeding up of the UN goodwill efforts to search for a path to a political solution, the observation of a cease-fire, the provision of foodstuffs, and seeking of a meeting with Benon Sevan, the deputy and special envoy of the UN secretary general. This has drawn the interest of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan too. We declare our complete accord with the assessments and analysis of the members of parliament of Afghanistan regarding the elimination of the present conflict through understanding and talks. We ask those delegates and senators who possess the possibilities of establishing contact with the opposition through various channels to give practical character to the aforementioned proposals and opinions and, based on the collective will of the parliament which is in fact the will of the majority of the people of Afghanistan, to take up practical measures toward providing grounds for talks between the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the opposition.

In our opinion the recent Wolasi Jerga resolution regarding the ways of maintaining peace, ending the war and bloodshed among the Afghans, and national and international developments in connection with the solution of the question of Afghanistan, contains important points that should be realized. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan resolutely supports such effective and useful decisions of the parliament. It has in the meantime commissioned an international commission, in contact with relevant authorities, to prepare grounds for working tours by Wolasi Jerga delegations to the neighboring countries and to some of the Islamic countries. Reciprocally, we invite delegations from those countries to familiarize themselves with the realities of Afghanistan. We welcome working and effective fruitful visits by Meli Shura delegations to those countries, in particular to Iran and Pakistan.

I suggest you start your work and appoint your delegates. Ask for a visa from the Pakistani Embassy. Under the current atmosphere of international understanding and given the repeated claims by the state of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that it is defending a political solution of the question of Afghanistan and an intra-Afghan dialogue, let a representative parliamentary delegation, who are the elected representatives of the people of Afghanistan and without particular party and formation, visit Pakistan. Pakistan will be faced with two situations: If it grants you visas and you are allowed to go to Pakistan, this will show and prove Pakistan's good intention concerning its truly practical and sincere measures for a political solution of the question of Afghanistan. Otherwise, once again our people, the people of Pakistan, as well as the people of the world, can draw their own judgements. If you take a visa to go to Pakistan, then what will be the position of the opposition? Don't they want to talk to the representaives of the people of Afghanistan, or do they? I believe the time has come now that such firm and courageous steps should be taken by you in these critical historic and destiny-making moments of your nation and people. Similarly you should visit other countries.

Esteemed delegates and senators, after the issuance of the Soviet-U.S. statement, various reactions were expressed by Afghans inside and outside the country, international circles, and foreign mass media of which you are aware. When opinion and reaction concerning the aforementioned statement was assessed, the majority of Afghans inside and outside the country and within the international community emphasized the necessity of the political and peaceful solution of the question of Afghanistan.

Dear compatriots, some heads of the opposition formations and a number of personalities still understand national reconciliation as surrender to the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. They are mistaken. Reconciliation does not mean the surrender of one side to the other; it is submission to the will of the majority of the Afghan people who are demanding the cessation of war and the solution of issues through talks and dialogue. If you have watched closely, political and social personalities or various formations, political groups and forces inside and outside the country always, when they talk, talk about the will of the people of Afghanistan or similar things. It is a general word, esteemed friends. Let us give it specific and practical content. What does the general will of the people of Afghanistan demand in the present conditions? I think the most important need of the people of Afghanistan in the present conditions is the maintenance of peace and the creation of national accord. In this way, if we have put forward the question of reconciliation, it is because it is the most important demand of the people of Afghanistan. This policy has not emanated from the mind of one individual, person, or political group. If we too did not realize such a policy based on the will of the people of Afghanistan, I should tell you frankly that we would have been left behind from the current and convoy of events and developments in our society and in the world. We have reflected such important demands and needs of the Afghan society and people and the atmosphere of international understanding.

This policy was adopted as a result of consultations and understanding with religious leaders, elders, and various strata of categories of the people of Afghanistan, and finally was announced almost five years ago. Therefore, this policy is the demand of the people of Afghanistan, the need of the people of Afghanistan—to maintain peace is the need of the people of Afghanistan. If you ask anyone whether they want war in Afghanistan or peace, everyone says—without considering the variety of ways and methods for this—we want peace. It is thus the will of the people of Afghanistan. And making efforts toward maintaining peace in Afghanistan does not mean the surrender of one side, one force, and one person to another person: It is, however, a practical step toward achieving the claims that have been consistently stated: "based on the will of the majority of the people of Afghanistan." [applause]

As far as it has been seen, the opposition, without the consideration of realities, only puts forward the question of gaining power, whereas the interests of the people and reconciliation condemn attempts both to retain and to obtain power by exerting pressure and [word indistinct]. I would like to repeat once again that the interests of the people of Afghanistan, the destiny of the people of Afghanistan, and the high interests of the country condemn attempts to retain or obtain power through exerting pressure and coercion. I would like to state categorically that if the state struggles toward keeping the monopoly of power, or if the opposition is trying to obtain the monopoly of power, they are both condemned, because the interests of the people of Afghanistan and the fate of the people of Afghanistan are higher than personal, group, political, party, clan, tribal, nepotistic, or ideological interests. Whether we want or do not want it, this is an established fact.

In my talks with the envoy of the UN secretary general and other envoys, I have consistently put forward this issue—that keeping power and obtaining power is not under question—and only one guarantee should be given to the people of Afghanistan: the cessation of war, the cessation of bloodshed. A mechanism to maintain the cessation of bloodshed and war should be made available, and we are ready—with flexibility, with compromise, and with self-sacrifice—to discuss and solve any question without any exception on the Afghan side that will create a transitional mechanism acceptable to all sides. With such guarantees and the creation of a mechanism under which the supply of weapons could be controlled, the withdrawal of dangerous weapons could be effected and a cease-fire could be maintained. When a guarantee for the restoration of peace is made available and when we know that all problems have passed from war to peace, from a current of murder and hostility to a democratic and free method, to a method under which the right of self-determination of the people of Afghanistan is in question, I can reassure you that the present regime, the present state, the Homeland Party and its political allies, with political wisdom and its great historical responsibility, will take steps toward the complete restoration of peace, the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and the national accord of Afghanistan. [passage indistinct]

We should think realistically to seek ways to end the war and ensure a political solution. Fortunately, the discussion which was held in the parliament proves this fact—that Afghanistan's people consider the peaceful and political solution of the issue of the country, with the participation of the parties concerned, as the most proper way out of the present difficult situation. If the opposition knows any other way that is based on existing realities and the national interest of the people of Afghanistan [words indistinct]. And we are ready from this moment to embark on talks and joint efforts, with an open heart and broad mind and horizon in connection with the solution of the issue.

It should not be imagined that the state wants only to monopolize any type of peaceful and political solution of the issue of Afghanistan for itself, or that it is making repeated proposals merely to possess and retain the monopoly of power. It is not like that. We have discussed the various methods of transferring power and gaining it by the means which are common in the world such as by holding free, secret, direct, equal, and general elections, in which only the free will of Afghanistan is and should be the principle and determining factor. However, the opposition continuously demands the removal of the existing system. They even ask the foreigners to help them come to power. Those poeple who know politics

and feel responsible before the nation and its fate, understand very well the danger resulting from a power vacuum under present conditions, when almost everyone is armed and the war and interference is also continuing from abroad.

I have always spoken to you dear friends reading from paper. It is good that a series of principles should be recorded by pen on paper. However, I want to follow the method of your conversation that you follow in parliament with your permission. If you allow me, I want to speak freely, in a friendly way, and orally. As you know, one considers oneself restricted when reading from paper and written words. Is not this true? Can we use your democratic climate? [voices from floor say "yes"]

We accept this regime, this sovereignty, the Homeland Party, the Armed Forces, its united political forces, which is in excess of [word indistinct]. You should tell me clear and openly, I know you have thought about these issues. Which other political forces, including the three-party formation or the moderates, can take the place of this sovereignty to stand up against the [Islamic] fundamentalists?

Many times people came to me from the other side and commanders came to me. On the day after Tanay launched his coup attempt, Hazrat-e Mojaddedi himself told someone else he was saying prayers all night and asking God to protect Najib because, if Golboddin [Hekmatyar] takes over and succeeds there will be no place for him to go. You imagine this situation when the fundamentalists take over in Afghanistan; I am saying to you what the alternative will be. I am talking to you openly about many issues today, and I am not going to hide anything.

Let the tribune of the parliament of Afghanistan be a dignified and prestigious tribune and in its turn become an instrument for indirect dialogue or direct means of dialogue with all Afghans and the world's public via the television and radio. If this regime or this sovereignty with its political alliance and the Homeland Party ceased to exist, the place in here, I say to you, would be filled up by the fundamentalists alone with the support and backing of the aliens.

If Golboddin, [Yunis] Khalis, and ['Abdol Rasul] Sayyaf [fundamentalist mojahedin leaders] come here, tell me clearly, will there be a place for the moderates? Will they allow [former King] Zahir Shah to come here? Will there be a place for [Jami'at-e Eslami, commander in Panjsher region] Ahmad Shah Masu'd? Will the nine-party alliance be allowed to come, let alone our National Salvation Party, or Unity, Democracy and Freedom Movement? The fundamentalists do not leave any place in society even for a small intellectual, political, or party movement with any kind of title, or even mention progress, enlightenment, development, democracy, and freedom. Is this not true? Then what can prevent such a great danger of extremism, fundamentalism, barbarism, massacre, and who can prevent a dark, black, and horrifying era in the society? Which force is this? Whether you like it or not this is another question. The Homeland Party has become a fact in the society and has become an important factor for a relative stability inside Afghanistan.

Therefore, I address all our compatriots; I address all political forces who are with us inside the country; I address all responsible Afghans and political forces abroad. Take your steps in such a responsible manner so that God prevents the honor and pride of our sisters and mothers from being violated. [passage indistinct] An uncalculated step should not be taken. It is a simple thing to say that the regime must be changed, Najib must go, and another person should take over, and then this issue can easily be solved. We must find the methods and seek for its mechanism; all guarantees must be obtained. Therefore, expressing opinions irresponsibly on issues under these sensitive circumstances of history, without consideration for the obvious facts of the history, whether bitter or sweet, is unwise. One should not take uncalculated steps. Therefore I ask this: This regime and this Homeland Party, whatever they are, if you talk about bad points talk about good points too. [Afghan proverb] If you do not want to be grateful, then recognize it as a political factor which safeguards Afghanistan's stability and is needed. Its political presence is useful for the society and for every individual in the society, and we should accept it. By preserving this relative power for stability, together with other forces, we will secure further stability. When everything becomes democratic and authority is genuinely given to the people of Afghanistan, then the people are the ones who can elect and choose someone as the leader or holder of power.

I do not know any other way apart from this. No one has the right to play with the history and destiny of millions of our compatriots and create such a power vacuum that the fire of the fighting flares up in every home and street. Who can take the country's responsibility under the circumstances when a power vacuum comes into being? I announce from this tribune that whoever is a candidate for this issue—whoever can accept responsibility when there is power vacuum—he is welcomed. He can raise his voice this evening or tomorrow via international radios in an interview with a journalist. Whoever he is, I invite him. Then on behalf of the party I will convene the party session; on behalf of the parliament I will convene the session of parliament, and I will say to them that we have found a personality who can accept this responsibility when there is a power vacuum, and who can come here and guarantee this issue. I can invite him to come to Afghanistan.

I keep on inviting people. But in various ways they make excuses. Why? Because it is a difficult situation; the conditions are difficult. It is not an easy task to tolerate such harsh and difficult conditions; otherwise I am ready and I can announce today that whoever wants to take the responsibility under the circumstances of a power vacuum and fill up this vacuum, he can nominate himself and I will invite him. Do you agree if I speak in

such a way? Do you? It is the right moment: Why should I keep things to myself? Everything must be raised before the representatives of the nation and people of Afghanistan; it should be put before the world's public; we can even put it before these people [the opposition]. We have much experience in this respect as well as from the world's events and from my own country. At the start of the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation, the military strategy of a number of units and sub-units of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan was altered in a number of regions such as Konar, Paktika, Bamian, and Kapisa. Furthermore, a number of other regions such as Khowst and Oruzgan came under the occupation of the opposition forces. We should ask this question: Is the situation peaceful in these regions? Which problems have been solved in these regions? Is peace restored and are the people continuing their life normally? Is the safety of life and property of the inhabitants of these provinces guaranteed?

On the contrary, the traditional order that existed in these regions has been totally disrupted. Private and public property has been plundered. A number of regions under the control of the opposition became derelict and the people's crops are all destroyed. A while ago 150 men were beheaded in Konar Province; over 1,000 people were killed. How many have been injured? If you look, the fighting is not going on between moderates and extremists in Konar. The fighting is going on between the extremists themselves. [words indistinct] The example of Konar shows that the extremists will fight again among themselves. At one time four governors were appointed there; Jamilorrahman then took power from Jami'at al-Da'wa; Golboddin then took power from him, and in the middle of this situation the innocent people of Afghanistan are being killed.

You can (?think) of this example in the whole of Afghanistan. Because there are such ways of thinking as saying: Very well, here is a regime and this regime will get power by the extremists with the support and backing of some military circles of Pakistan. When this regime gets power [words indistinct]. We can then remove the extremists from the scene [words indistinct].

First of all I say to you that history which was repeated in the past will not be repeated in the same way. Amanollah Khan was removed from power and Bacha-e Saqow took over. Bacha-e Saqow was then removed and another power took over. If once these extremists come here and step in, no one can then (?remove them from here). Consider the fundamentalist movement which is active in the world and has brought about a great danger. Either this will be the situation or otherwise there will be the second case where fighting continues in the streets and roads. One generation will be wiped out and the second generation will come into being [words indistinct] Afghanistan will then turn to ashes. Under these circumstances, even if we get rid of the fundamentalism from here and then other Afghans decide to gradually return to the country—they may come to visit the ashes of Afghanistan, the grave of Afghanistan, the graves and bones of the people of Afghanistan and then here they become a ruler, a king, or exercise power. I say this time and again that it is high time and the right time, although it requires courage and bravery, to leave alone trivial issues and past relations; let us come, the people of Afghanistan at this moment, and ask for the restoration of peace and security; let us take firm steps, not with hesitation and suspicion. The people of Afghanistan (?experienced) sacrifices and are bearing all these difficulties, problems, and miseries. They bear the pain and torture day and night. They would not forget the effect of negligence, weakness, and hesitation at this sensitive time of history; what does this mean to the people of Afghanistan? When Golboddin seized Konar from his rival after slaughter and massacre and if this situation continues or if this situation is imagined in the whole country, what would be the result of it? No power should allow itself to intensify the situation further toward bloodshed and destruction to grasp or preserve power in a monopolistic manner.

Dear friends, from my point of view there are national and international documents for the commencement of talks between Afghans and an accord for a peaceful political solution of the issue of Afghanistan [words indistinct]. The five-point statement of the UN secretary general and the recent Soviet-U.S. statement concerning Afghanistan have brought about a confident base for showing readiness for talks and understanding by the belligerent parties. The international developments together with the recent events in the Soviet Union have revealed that one cannot solve the problem of a country or a nation by force and military logic, although a number of the opposition forces supported the coup in the Soviet Union [as heard] so that the war continues in Afghanistan and thus their self interests can be secured in this war. Fortunately, their calculation did not produce any result. Now the atmosphere is such that only the road of a peaceful political solution can save the broken ship of the people of Afghanistan, not by removal of this or that force but by the coming together of all Afghan political forces inside and outside the country.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan—on top of previous proposals and within the framework of the UN secretary general's statement—proposes that a national unity government be formed that will be based on the government of Republic of Afghanistan Prime Minister Khaleqyar, the interim government based in Peshawar, with the participation of the nine-party alliance in Iran, the council of internal commanders, Afghan personalities living in Europe and the United States, and associates of Mohammad Zahir, former king of Afghanistan. Such a government, which will have a transitional character, shall put at the top of its tasks a review of the Constitution, the drafting of an elections law, and the issue of the return of refugees and their resettlement with the cooperation of the United Nations. It will supervise a cease-fire and its observation, and shall supervise with UN cooperation the cessation of weapons entering Afghanistan.

I repeat that the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, on top of previous proposals and within the framework of the UN secretary general's statement, proposes: A national unity government will be formed, which will be based on the government of Esteemed Khaleqyar, the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, the interim government based in Peshawar, with the participation of the nine-party alliance based in Iran, the council of internal commanders, Afghan personalities living in Europe and America, and the associates of Mohammad Zahir, former king of Afghanistan. Such a government, which will have a transitional character, will put at the top of its tasks the review of the Constitution, the drafting of an elections law, and the issue of the return of the refugees and their resettlement in cooperation with the United Nations. It will supervise the issue of the cease-fire and its observance and will supervise, in cooperation with the United Nations, the issue of ending the entry of weapons into Afghanistan. In this direction, esteemed deputies and senators, the representatives of the Afghan nation, be sure that we will go ahead open-mindedly, without subjectivity, without narrow-mindedness, with self-sacrifice, with compromise, with reconciliation, so that we will have taken steps for the realization of the desires of the people of Afghanistan from the bottom of our hearts as our historic mission. And we are ready for this. Here, this is another prescription. I told you before that we do not want to monopolize the proposing of political issues for the peaceful solution of the Afghan issue. But, on the other hand, we expect what a proposal contains [as heard]. If they had no proposal, we would have to propose, unilaterally, our proposals in one form or another every day. Otherwise, if this prescription was not one for salvation, they should put forward their own. Or this method is not correct. If they put on airs that they did not accept this and that, should we also behave like they do, and irresponsibly? Have consistency as regards our national and popular policy, which we have called the will of the people of Afghanistan. Without any doubt, we will reap its fruit and results. Well, the road is uneven. It is not an even one, but....[quoting poem] Running along an even road is not the skill, the trick of manly running is its ups and downs.

While the government truthfully welcomes the UN secretary general's statement and joint U.S.-USSR communique as important steps towards the peaceful and political solution of the Afghan problem, we propose the following:

A satisfactory and effective international mechanism should be set up to control the import of weapons by land and air across the Republic of Afghanistan's borders with the Soviet Union, Iran, and Pakistan, in order to bring about real guarantees for an end to arms deliveries.

In controlling arms imports a mechanism should simultaneously be (?designed) to prevent narcotics trafficking in these regions.

I propose to the United States and other countries that the sums of money spent on combatting drug trafficking should be put at the disposal of the United Nations to be spent on achieving the objective of preventing the import of weapons, preventing terrorist networks, and preventing drug trafficking. You are aware that in various parts of the world, including the United States, millions of dollars are being spent in a program to combat drug trafficking.

A mechanism should be set up so that we can see how many UN units and posts are needed where and on which roads, along the borders with the Soviet Union and Iran and, in particular, along the border with Pakistan; how many land units and control and watch units are needed in these places; and how many helicopters and planes are needed. I think the sum of money that will be spent here will be many times smaller than that paid to Pakistan for controlling the growing of narcotic substances and the trade in them. Thus two birds can be killed with one stone. In such circumstances, the people of Afghanistan can have confidence when a mechanism for the cessation of arms deliveries is set up and the import of weapons is being prevented. In such circumstances, the people of Afghanistan will be satisfied that the bitter experience of non-compliance in full with the Geneva accords will not be repeated. If a mechanism is not set up for the careful control of the cessation of arms imports, the danger of further bloodshed cannot be removed. The desire of the government and people of the Republic of Afghanistan, the desire of society in general, and the requirement of the existing atmosphere in international relations are such that the fighting should cease and that there should be a political and peaceful solution of the Afghanistan issue [words indistinct].

The people of our country who have felt the enormous losses and miseries of the war with their flesh and blood have the right to expect society as a whole and rich countries in particular to extend economic and humanitarian assistance to them, under UN supervision, instead of military assistance, so that they can use it for economic reconstruction and their urgent needs.

Dear compatriots, in an official statement a few days ago, the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan welcomed the U.S.-Soviet joint statement as an important step toward the restoration of peace, and it put forward proposals to the opposite side. We have stated that we are ready for the declaration of a cease-fire. The government of the Republic of Afghanistan proposed that there should be talks with the council of internal commanders, as one of the major factors in the political equation, on a political and peaceful solution. Once again we declare that we are ready to hold talks with them, anywhere and at any level they want, in order to seek a political and peaceful solution. If the opposite side stops its offensive attacks and firing of Sakar missiles, the government is prepared not to fire Scud missiles at their positions. I propose from this rostrum that if the offensive attacks and firing of Sakar missiles at cities are stopped, we are

ready to propose to the United Nations that this organization send a delegation to our country to supervise the dismantling of all Scud missiles.

We propose that the roads leading to the cities should be kept open to enable the poor and destitute people whose interests lie in the villages to have access to the basic foodstuffs produced in the villages and to enable the villagers to purchase the necessary goods from the cities, in return for their products, and take them to their villages.

We propose that bridges, roads, tunnels, electricity generating installations, electricity stations and pylons, farms, telephone lines, hospitals, schools, and, in general, all public utility installations which are the property of the people be exempt from attack; that is, government forces and forces of the other side should not have the right to attack public utility installations in the course of fighting each other. In other words, in case of agreement with the other side's forces, those public utility installations can be declared peace areas, enjoying protection against confronting forces.

The Republic of Afghanistan proposed to heads of formations and parties based in Peshawar that they should open their offices with safety in Kabul or other provinces. This is the confirmation of political pluralism and the acceptance of multiplicity of parties in line with the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan. We are fully of the opinion that the political and peaceful solution of the Afghan problem, the complete implementation of national reconciliation, and eventually the ensuring of peace and stability in Afghanistan not only do not threaten the legitimate interests of any other countries, including our neighbors, but will also develop and certainly enhance mutually beneficial economic relations. The Republic of Afghanistan invites Pakistan, Iran, India, China, and the USSR, as neighbors of Afghanistan, to help the people of Afghanistan to attain a peaceful political solution. We cordially ask fraternal Islamic countries to play an effective role, using their credibility and influence, in ensuring peace in Afghanistan. In the view of the Republic of Afghanistan, the Nonaligned Movement countries can help the people of our country in their search for a political and peaceful solution.

Expressing gratitude for the efforts of the United States and the USSR for their joint communique on Afghanistan, we hope that the United States and the USSR will increase their efforts to step up the political and peaceful solution process as guarantors of the Geneva agreements.

At a time when heads of governments and states of a number of countries have taken part in the 46th session of the UN General Assembly, we approach the General Assembly, participating heads of governments and states, and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to help the people of Afghanistan in ending the war, restoring peace, and reconstructing Afghanistan. In our opinion, the human community can and should assist the people of Afghanistan to attain an end to the war and ensure peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan. Dear compatriots, having put forward these views and opinions, I would like to present the measures of the Republic of Afghanistan and the stances of the other side for the judgement of the wise people of Afghanistan. Despite all social and economic problems, we have honestly tried to take advantage of the smallest possibility to alleviate this crisis of confidence and begin negotiations with Afghan political forces, and we have welcomed any positive step, even a small one, with perseverence and flexibility. As you know, the Republic of Afghanistan first declared a national reconciliation policy, presented dozens of peace proposals, signed the Geneva agreements, and duly expedited the eviction of the Soviet forces from the country. It welcomed the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the USSR-U.S. agreement on a political and peaceful solution of the Afghan problem. It approved the recent statement of the UN secretary general and the U.S.-USSR joint communique. It expresses gratitude for the good offices of the United Nations and peace-loving countries and personalities for their search for a peaceful and political solution, and has expressed its readiness to implement the aforementioned efforts.

Leaders of the extremists, however, have so far not taken any step to end the war and ensure peace. For instance, Golboddin Hekmatyar called the USSR-U.S. joint communique a conspiracy against the Afghan mojahedin; Mohammad Yunus Khales considered it an injustice to the mojahedin; and Abdorrab Rasul Sayaf, saying that the decision will not affect their struggle, warned that ignoring the mojahedin or forming a coalition government of the sides engaged would be the beginning of a general civil war. Esteemed deputies and senators, a few days ago I called on Mohammad Zaher Shah, former king of Afghanistan, to play his role in the political and peaceful solution of the Afghan problem. The Republic of Afghanistan is the only side, the only side, that has invited the former king to participate in the resolution of the country's problem. You know extremist organizations always show a harshly negative reaction to the participation of the former king in the political solution. Even Sebghatollah Mojadeddi, too, while in Germany recently, opposed the participation of the former king in the resolution of the Afghan problem, in some ways.

It must be said explicitly that an invitation by the government of the Republic of Afghanistan to the former king and other relevant Afghan sides, as I pointed out earlier, has taken place in the framework of the policy of national reconciliation reflecting the wish and will of the people of Afghanistan. Therefore, we are expecting him, as he always speaks of the free will of the Afghan nation, to accomplish his responsibility in this sensitive stage of the history in consideration of this will and supreme interest of the country. Approximately five years have elapsed since we declared the policy of national reconciliation. Let me speak with you openly: Could anybody have dared to mention the name of Zahir Shah before,

considering the political events and situation in the country, the sociopolitical events? Very well, when we declared this policy, we did not exclude any Afghan from this policy of ours, no Afghan at all; and we announced we would hold talks with anybody, anywhere, at any level, and in any shape or form. Among these, the proposal of holding talks in Holy Mecca became very famous. You can remember that I travelled to places personally to hold talks without thinking about the level of talks when I regarded it to be a step for securing the interests of the people of Afghanistan. I entered in the talks and did not think of it as a shame but regarded it as an honor. To everyone from the leader of a formation, group, commanders inside and outside, political personalities in Europe, America, and various countries—to all I have sent various letters and invited all of them to come to their country and let us get together in a national [word indistinct] and create a national unity for ending the pains and miseries of the people of Afghanistan. [Words indistinct] so that to prove to the world's public that if the Afghans fight against each other they can hold talks with each other, too. During the past several thousand-years-old history of Afghanistan, in most instances in crucial moments, the people, the people's representatives, elders and chiefs, politicians, ulema, clergymen, and intellectuals gathered around each other and solved problems and they have undone very difficult knots by hand, not by [word indistinct]. From the personal point of view, I can say that all these people I invite, some of them are veteran rulers, some of them are new rulers who have newly gained authority and are anxious to be a new ruler, from the personal point of view they will become my rivals and this will be troublesome, my dear friends. However, I did not consider this issue. I invite everyone from king to beggar to come along and sit around one Afghan table and solve issues.

You endorsed the Constitution at a Loya Jerga in 1366 [1987-88] and then amended it in 1369 [1990-91]. In this Constitution you made the topic of "rights of the subjects" very prominent. I say to you, the Constitution about which the opposition so far has not spoken [against] whereas they have spoken [against] every other [word indistinct] because prolonged preliminary work was carried out for this Constitution, dozens of other countries' constitutions were studied, our own country's constitutional laws were studied, and finally a comprehensive broad discussion, you can remember, was held in the Loya Jerga both for its approval and for bringing amendments. The Constitutional Council, mentioned in this Constitution, held a session and drew my attention to one issue, saying: Najibollah, esteemed President, every day you say that all Afghans can take part [in the policy of national reconciliation], including Zahir Shah, who can take an important part [words indistinct]. A decree of the Revolutionary Council issued at a time in the past has taken the right of citizenship from a number of people and this is against the Constitution. Tell me who can nullify this decree. According to the Constitution, it is within the power of the president, and he realized this and said to himself: It is the right time to do so. I nullified this decree and declared it void and said that passports are to be issued for them. They are Afghans and can come to Afghanistan. I have done this to do a favor, to say: "Do good and throw it in the river; God may one day return it to you in a desert." [Afghan proverb] Undoubtedly, the Almighty God called peace a blessing. Every step or every move you make for the restoration of peace will bring blessing and God will give a reward for it. It will become an investment for this world and the day after. However, we accomplished this work due to the perception of our Afghan responsibility.

They say that they do not recognize this decree officially because the Kabul regime is unlawful. It is the continuation of a coup d'etat. Allow me to say, dear friends, that the situation became such and the world changed such, that a young 45-year-old man with his deep historic feeling of responsibility before the people of Afghanistan became 76 years old. He acted with knowledge. He tells everyone to become united. It was not my duty. It is the duty of a person who is 76 years, those who are elderly, who are respectable. Those who have historic experiences. Those who have reigned for 40 years. They should say: Children, my sons, do not fight, do not argue. It is enough of discord. Let us gather together. I will become a bridge for you. I will become your means to help you sit together. I only have a few days left of my life, I should use it for the betterment and welfare of the country. He [the king] suddenly [word indistinct] and says that they are unlawful. When Golboddin discusses him and curses him [words indistinct] He does not tell him anything. Sayyaf declares—you have heard this many times—that he does not want the king to come to Afghanistan. He [the king] remains quiet. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi recently went to Germany and said that he [the king] had a passive role in jihad. And what has he done? What is his right to come and benefit from Afghanistan's jihad? [words indistinct]

We as the only force, it is not for personal reasons or gain that we do this. We have also invited Sebghatollah, we have invited the moderate, we have invited the alliance of nine, we have invited the commanders inside the country, we have invited the intellectuals of Afghanistan, and we have also invited the four fundamentalists without any exception. They too kept their distance from the (?quality stage) of fate of the people of Afghanistan as a result of their wrong policies. We did not make any exception. We asked them to come: You are our old, you have experience, and you can serve the people of Afghanistan. [But the king says] the continuation of Najib too is the continuation of the coup d'etat, the coup d'etat of 7 Sowr [April 1978 coup]; therefore, it is not lawful.

The people of Afghanistan remember another date in their history too. That is 26 Saratan 1352 [17 July 1973]. That was a coup, wasn't it? Or it was a revolution! It was a coup d'etat, and gave [word indistinct] to that coup d'etat. It is almost five years that we too suffered with those people who were drowned in the bloodbath. He should hear us too. Is this a dialogue with the ex-king of Afghanistan? No one calls on you; only Najib calls on

you and keeps telling you for the last three years that the path is opened, opened, opened, opened for you. Come to do something, to deliver the broken ship to the target shore. Did he not send his resignation after the coup d'etat of 26 Saratan? Did he not send [papers of] his oath of allegiance? If a coup d'etat is carried out by my [the king's] cousin or by my relatives and others, it does not matter and is permitted. But if others resort to a coup and or any other transformation that takes place, they are unlawful.

If we count such facts, I can tell you about them. Let us compare both the republic of Daud Khan [1973-78] and the reign of Mohammad Zahir Shah [before 1973]. In both systems, without any doubt Loya Jergas [Grand Assemblies] were held, but the Loya Jergas were held for the solution of other national, political, and social issues. You should tell me: Was there any Loya Jerga or any general election for the king's accession to the throne? [voices say "no"] I do not remember anything. [words indistinct] Did the people of Afghanistan elect him? Did the Loya Jerga of Afghanistan vote for him? If we count such facts, let us carry on as such up to the end. Then we will see that there will be no one lawful left; all of them are unlawful. On the other hand, what is the need to solve such questions? What type of problem and what sort of knot of Afghanistan's people will be solved by these?

Our expectation is that our elders and respectable people who are experienced.... [changes thought] In this sensitive moment of history, if we the young people are emotional from this side and the other side—we should not really say the young people, as Hazrat-e Mojaddedi is twice my age and elders reject him, young people reject them, but Najib opens doors for him and he does not accept.... [changes thought]

What else can be done? I said to you earlier, if this regime and this sovereignty did not exist and the extremists take over, I say to you earnestly, without propaganda considerations, to think—when you go home tonight, switch off the lights and lay down in your bed, one can think better in the dark—and ask yourself this question: Will there be a place for His Majesty Mohammad Zahir Shah in Afghanistan? There will be no place for others too. Therefore, I am expecting this. My question is this if excuses are being made in various forms; I address him once again before the representatives of the people of Afghanistan: Relieve us once and for all and say I do not want to come. There are many other forces; I will go ahead with them. The way for a political solution of Afghanistan can be found; it can be found with others. There is a proverb in Pashto saying: I want it but I feel cold. I am hoping that this should not be interpreted both by you, the nation of Afghanistan, and by Mohammad Zahir, ex-king of Afghanistan, that this is allegedly a [words indistinct]. A young man who because of responsibility feels like an 80-year-old man can make a complaint. Old men of 80 or 90 are expected to shelter others under their wing [Afghan proverb] [words indistinct]. I have invited the king many times and said: Please come, please come. Today I deliberately wanted to approach the issue a little bit critically, if this has any effect, so that he can speedily come to the scene.

I must tell you that if he comes tomorrow, I mean His Majesty Mohammad Zahir, you tell me, which force will he rely on? Which force will be the force capable of resistance against the extremists? Which force will that be? He might not have any choice but to ask and say: Najib, go along with me and tell your party to be on my side. Your Armed Forces should be with me.

We will bring changes in various fields, in the structural composition, in the political issues, in the economic field, and in military fields, to create a government of national unity or bring about a national compromise. These existing forms, specifications, and issues which are the result of war—and we are in the state of war—will change seriously and comprehensively once we change from war to peace. Based only on the interest of Afghanistan's nation, despite all these transformations, I must tell you that no one can throw this force in a river. If one throws it, then his hand is [word indistinct] for Pakistan's militarists and fundamentalists. What will happen? The one we discussed with you. It has become a fact, whether it is bitter, sweet, whether you like it or not; one should accept the reality. We accepted these realities five years ago. We accepted them. We declared them. We went ahead with them sincerely up to now. Now, when the sensitive and determining moments of the fate of Afghanistan's people are discussed, if I throw this away, reject this, reject that, it means that I do not really want to build the society of Afghanistan. I do not want to ensure the national unity of Afghans. I do not want to protect its territorial integrity. I do not want to reflect the will of Afghanistan's people which is to ensure peace.

I tell you that the people of Afghanistan are grateful people. We are proud of it, but we will not forget that, whether good or bad. Once we declared the reconciliation policy and the ground was prepared for the signing of the Geneva Accords, the Soviet forces left Afghanistan. This is registered in the memory of history.

They wanted to transform Afghanistan as a confederation with Pakistan. It did not materialize. They wanted to divide Afghanistan. It did not happen. We declare peace; God willing, it will soon be established in our country. God willing. This a great moral duty. This is the outcome of history, dear friends. We do not want anything else for us. These chairs do not have any value. No one has them forever. This is a mortal world; we go toward an eternal world. Death is inevitable. If you have everything, such as property, wealth, goods, posts, chairs, can you take them all with you to the grave? From a king to a beggar, they all go to the grave with two meters of shroud. Their heads touch in the same way the stones of the grave.

During these days that God created us, based on God's theology, which named human beings as the highest

creature of all creatures and sent us on earth to serve people and his other creatures, we should carry out this mission.

The people of Afghanistan will not forget those days when missiles were fired on them and they were drowning in blood, those days when there was poverty and hunger, those days when they were suffering every day with pain. There is not a family that does not suffer from the pains and sorrow of their children. Who was with them? Who stood alongside with them? The people of Afghanistan will not forget this. It is registered in the history and memory of Afghanistan's people. People value it. Fortunately, we earn this value, despite the many mistakes that existed. We had the courage to say it and open this knot more than any other person. It was then that the others found the courage to speak from here and there about our shortcomings.

We not only declared and confessed to the shortcomings, but we struggled against them strongly. We take a new step toward removing these shortcomings every day. The people of Afghanistan will judge the following themselves: On those days when their blood was shed and their destiny was decided, and when they were covered in a pool of blood, they were burning in the hot fire of a furnace, and the voices and all the national and international resources were ready for Afghans to get together and come and serve for a few days, who answered them? Who took courageous steps? Who stood on the front line of struggle? Who wanted to prevent more orphans? No more black chadors [head scarf and sign of mourning]. No more voices of pain, cries, and groaning should reach the skies. Who was that? Are you still waiting for blood to be shed? Blood should be shed to clear the way for you. The land is transformed into graveyards and deserted places, and when everything is destroyed, then you should come into power on your own. What will that be, what satisfaction will it be?

I repeat again that our expectation from Mohammad Zahir, ex-king of Afghanistan himself, is that he should, as he always does, speak about the free will of the nation, taking into account this will and the interest of the country, and should understand deeply his responsibilities in this sensitive moment.

Fortunately, the number of the forces and personalities who think realistically and have a responsible approach toward the issues are considerably high both among the leaders of the opposition formations and among the social and political personalities inside and outside the country.

I forgot to mention one point, my friends. You remember the holding of Loya Jerga 1366 [1987], when I was elected as president. He might say that it was one-sided and that Najib brought a number of people belonging to himself. [passage indistinct]

Kabul Continues Heavy Bombing in Gardeyz

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[by Anil Penna]

[Text] KABUL, Oct 1 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibollah's government is engaged in a crucial fight to hold on to the strategic eastern garrison city of Gardeyz, the target of a resistance assault which entered its second day Tuesday.

A government spokesman here reported a two-pronged attack in the early hours of Tuesday on the city located some 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Kabul, saying it had been repulsed with heavy mojahedin casualties.

He said resistance guerrillas fired artillery and rockets into Gardeyz, but mentioned no government or civilian casualties.

Kabul forces retaliated, forcing them to retreat, leaving dead and wounded behind, he said.

Gardeyz is a strategically significant gateway to Kabul and lies on a major land supply route for the government.

On Monday, the first day of the assault mounted by combined mojahedin forces led by resistance commander Jalaluddin Haqqani, the guerrillas were reported to be reaching closer to Gardeyz.

Rebel news agencies and Western diplomats in Pakistan said between 6,000 and 10,000 mojahedin fighters backed by tanks and artillery were involved in the offensive and that more than 20 government posts had fallen by Tuesday.

Here in Kabul, official spokesmen said they had no knowledge of any government reverses after claiming that the first wave of attacks had been beaten back.

Foreign military analysts said a dozen air force missions were flown from Kabul Monday with combat planes taking off apparently in the direction of Gardeyz.

More sorties were flown from Bagram air base and air activity was also noticed in Kabul early Tuesday.

The Soviet-backed government has vowed to hold on to Gardeyz at any cost and recently reinforced the garrison amid expectation that a mojahedin attack was coming ahead of the winter, which marks the end of the fighting season.

The pro-resistance Afghan News Agency (ANA) in Peshawar, Pakistan, said September 22 that "foolproof arrangements have been made by the mojahedin for running over this garrison."

ANA Tuesday reported large-scale retaliatory bombing by the government, and claimed that Said Karam, a

government base about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Gardeyz, was badly destroyed in a Scud missile attack.

"Either the missile missed the target or the attack was deliberate," a Hezb-e-Eslami spokesman said, adding that the attack triggered a huge fire in the town's ammunition depot.

The mojahedin had distributed letters in Said Karam urging residents to flee, but it was not clear if there were any civilian casualties, the spokesman said.

He speculated that the Scud may have been fired to prevent the capture of the government arsenal in Said Karam in case troops withdrew.

In March, the mojahedin captured the city of Khowst near the Pakistan border after heavy fighting in their first major victory in the battle to topple Najibollah's government.

"The mojahedin victory in Khowst was largely symbolic," one analyst said. "But if they take Gardeyz, it would bring them one step closer towards Kabul."

The analyst said the fall of Gardeyz would cut off the land supply route to such areas as Ghazni and Qandahar and put additional pressure on air transport at a time when aviation fuel is scarce.

"Gardeyz is not Khowst," said another observer, predicting a prolonged fight if the mojahedin were to continue with the offensive.

Together with tribal militias, the government is believed to command about 20,000 men in Gardeyz, which is the capital of Najibollah's home province.

The garrison is led by Abdul Qadir Miakhel, one of Kabul's top generals.

Monday's assault was preceded by expressions of concern by both Kabul and Moscow at reports of a planned mojahedin offensive.

The Soviet Union said Pakistan had sent large shipments of arms and ammunition, including tanks and rockets, deep into Afghanistan, cautioning that such actions "cannot but lead to an escalation of violence" and create additional obstacles on the road of a peaceful settlement.

The assault on Gardeyz came in the wake of this month's U.S.- Soviet agreement to stop arms deliveries to their allies in the 13-year-old Afghan conflict.

Najibollah, at a press conference Monday, accused Islamabad of stepping up arms shipments to the mojahedin and encouraging attacks on Afghan targets.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said Soviet Ambassador to Kabul Boris Pastoukhov was summoned to Moscow "a couple of days ago."

The sources said he had returned for talks on the military situation in Afghanistan and diplomatic moves to end the conflict.

Iran

Tehran: No Hostages Held in Beirut Embassy

LD0210110391 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 2, IRNA—An informed source at Iran's Foreign Ministry here Wednesday categorically dismissed a report by "Monte Carlo" radio, quoting the London-based "TIMES" newspaper, as saying that three Western hostages were being kept at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut. "These allegations," the source added, "are totally baseless and mere lies." He severely rejected any connection between the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Beirut and the issue of hostages and described such rumors as "mere fabrications."

Syrian Chief of Staff Concludes Visit

LD0110113391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the Joint Staff of Syria's Armed Forces who had come to Tehran, left our country this morning after a six-day stay during which he conveyed [Syrian President] Hafiz al-Asad's verbal message to our country's president. He was seen off officially by Major General Shahbazi, chief of Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces.

Before leaving he spoke to our reporter describing his trip as an important step toward strengthening friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries. He referred to his inspection of the progress made by Iran's military industries and said: I am sure that the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to defend in every way the achievements of the Islamic revolution. Regarding the recent U.S.-Kuwait military pact, the Syrian Joint Staff chief said: We have already declared our concerns about the presence of foreign forces in any Arab country and we shall still endeavor to drive foreign forces from the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Joint Staff chief also spoke about his Syrian counterpart's visit to our country, saying: During this trip military cooperation and the exchange of expert teams aimed at benefiting from the experiences of the two countries in the military field were discussed and examined.

U.S. Military Deployments Around Bubiyan Noted

LD0110124691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Following the Kuwaiti Government's acceptance of the establishment of American military bases in Kuwait, U.S. military operations in the Persian Gulf have increased.

According to IRNA, fishermen and boatmen say that a lot of military equipment has been transferred to Bubiyan Island and some missiles have also been aimed at Iraq's al-Faw region. The fishermen say that three American and Kuwaiti warships have been deployed in Bubiyan Island and a big American warship is patrolling the vicinity of Iraq's al-Bakr oil-terminals. Also, many powerful explosions take place daily, in the al-Faylakah and Bubiyan islands of Kuwait.

Khamene'i on Helping Palestinian Resistance

LD0110130191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Before noon today His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause [Vali-e Amr] of the Muslims, received members of the Supreme Council in charge of the Conference in Support of the Islamic Revolution of the Palestinian people. In the meeting, his eminence gave them some advice, and underlined the dangerous conspiracy aimed at weakening and undermining the Palestinian cause. Graciously stressing the need to eliminate the Zionist regime, his eminence stressed that this is the Islamic Republic of Iran's principle and constant objective.

In the course of the meeting, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed to the significance of the timing of the international conference in support of the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people. He said: The Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran regards the Palestine issue as a serious, fundamental, and vital issue. We regard the convention of a peace conference, the standard-bearer of which is America, the great satan—who is the main advocate of the racist Zionist regime—as a treacherous act, an act which infringes the indisputable rights of the Palestinian nation.

Emphasizing the need to initiate efforts at the international conference aimed at bolstering the revolutionary tendency, the leader of the Islamic revolution graciously said: The immediate defense of the Islamic uprising of the Palestinians is our duty, and the necessary assistance should be rendered to the Palestinian resistance fighters in any way possible. The latest proposal adopted in the name of the Palestine National Council was a move toward selling off and discrediting Palestine. We condemn and reject that move. The political system in Palestine must be established by its genuine owners, and the usurper and racist regime ruling over the occupied Palestine must be destroyed and eliminated.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the nations' vigilance as an important and fundamental factor toward preventing the realization of the dangerous conspiracy aimed at destroying the Palestinian nation. Concluding his speech, his eminence stressed that the revolutionary integrity and the special stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran must be openly presented in the international conference in support of the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people. Prior to the Leader of the Islamic revolution's speech, Hojjat-ol Eslam Musavi-Lari, the chairman of the conference, submitted a report to the leader on the intitatives taken toward the convention of the international conference in support of the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people.

Official on Gulf Security, Afghanistan, USSR

LD0110205891 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 1, IRNA—Iran does not like to see another war in the region, the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Pakistan Javad Mansuri said today in reference to fresh U.S. threats against Iraq.

"We hope the Iraqi Government would take proper measures in this regard in the light of past experiences, and would help prevent another war in the region," Mansuri told a press conference here. He also expressed hope that the U.S. "would pay more attention" to Persian Gulf region states and regional security, and pursue a policy of negotiations and patience.

Mansuri reiterated Iran's opposition to the military pact between the United States and Kuwait, and made it clear that regional security should be maintained by regional governments alone as specified by the United Nations Resolutions 598.

The Iranian ambassador opposed any interference by Saudi Arabia in Afghan affairs, and said the issue should be solved by the Afghan people, and "no foreign government should impose its outlook on the Afghan people." Asked whether Iran would attend an international conference on Afghanistan involving Saudi Arabia, he said "we did not participate in a similar conference in Geneva because of the absence of the true representatives of the Afghan people, and we will not take part in such a conference either."

Questioned on military aid to the Afghan mojahedin, Mansuri said Iranian aid to the mojahedin is mainly of political, moral and international nature. "The mojahedin receive military aid from other parties."

On Iran's stance concerning Najibollah, the head of the Marxist regime in Kabul, he said Afghan leaders and politicians should sort out the matter among themselves, and that Iran will not impose any particular view on the Afghan people.

Stressing on continuation of political efforts to settle the Afghan issue, he said Iran believes that talks between the parties involved, will eventually be of benefit and can help solve the issue.

On the Washington-Moscow accord to cut arms supplies to the sides involved in the Afghan conflict, Mansuri said whatever efforts that can help settle the issue are "positive" in Iran's viewpoint. "However", he added, "this measure alone (cutting of arms supplies) is not enough for peace, since non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is among the most important points for return of peace."

The one-time deputy foreign minister also stated that newspaper columns in the Islamic Republic do not necessary indicate the Iranian Government's viewpoints and policies.

When asked that a recent article in a Tehran English daily allegedly hinted at doing away with a certain Afghan mojahedin leader, Mansuri said "Perhaps some people want to be the centre of attention and propaganda, but we decisively condemn any terrorist threats."

Turning to developments in the Soviet Union, he said Iran is bound by culture, history and religion with the Muslim-populated republics of Soviet Central Asia. "However, we do not intend to interfere in their internal affairs." Mansuri also condemned suppression of the Kashmiri people by India and, called on New Delhi to find a solution for the issue. "The U.N. resolutions could be helpful in this respect," he added referring to the world body's unfulfilled call for holding a plebiscite in Muslim populated Kashmir.

On the late Imam Khomeyni's decreeing of death penalty for British apostate Salman Rushdie who authored the highly sacrilegious novel 'The Satanic Verses', Mansuri made it clear that the 'fatwa' remains in force despite the passing of time and is "unalterable." "It is not a matter for the Islamic Republic of Iran alone. More than one billion Muslims have been insulted. It is related to the Muslim world at large," he added.